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Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-137
Monday
18 July 1994

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Joint Jordanian-Israeli Session Meets

Preparatory Teams Discuss Talks

JN1607122994 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Jul 94 p 29

[Report by Caroline Faraj]

[Text] A responsible source has informed AL-RA'Y that a Jordanian preparatory team yesterday morning received an Israeli delegation at the Dead Sea Spa to discuss arrangements for the meetings of the tripartite Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli committee, which will convene in the presence of the U.S. secretary of state, as well as the Jordanian and Israeli foreign ministers.

The source added that the Israeli delegation, headed by Eytan Bentzur, member of the Israeli delegation to the talks with the Jordanian delegation and deputy director general of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as several Israeli technicians arrived in Jordan via the King Husayn Bridge, where they were granted special permits after they had handed over their passports to the bridge authorities. They then traveled in Jordanian vehicles to the site of the tripartite committee meeting, the Dead Sea Spa.

Counselor 'Umar al-Rifa'i, member of the Jordanian delegation to the talks, and several military experts attended for Jordan.

The source went on to say that the meeting lasted three hours. The talks addressed the procedural details regarding the tripartite meeting due to be held on 20 July. The conferees reached agreement on some of these procedural details, with the remainder yet to be agreed.

The source added that the Israeli delegation left the Spa for the King Husayn Bridge aboard the same Jordanian transport used when it crossed into Jordan.

The source asserted that the Jordanian and Israeli sides will hold another preparatory meeting at the site of the bilateral negotiations in Wadi al-'Arabah on 17 July to agree on the final procedural details before the convocation of the negotiations.

It is to be recalled that a similar preparatory meeting was held at the site of the bilateral negotiations on Wednesday [13 July] to discuss preparations and arrangements for these negotiations.

In a related development, AL-RA'Y has learned from informed sources that the meeting scheduled to be held among the Jordanian, U.S., and Israeli delegations in the Dead Sea area in the presence of Ambassador Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for Middle East peace negotiations, is expected to be canceled.

The sources said that the cancellation of this meeting might be prompted by the recent developments seen after His Majesty King Husayn accepted U.S. President Bill Clinton's invitation for a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington on 25 July.

The sources emphasized that the date set for the tripartite meetings remains 20 July, as scheduled, with the understanding that these meetings could be continued on 21 July if there is a need for this.

It is to be recalled that the bilateral Jordanian-Israeli talks will be held at a site 13 km north of al-'Aqabah in Wadi al-'Arabah on 18 July. Jordan is demanding that the bilateral talks continue until noon the next day.

Spokesman: Jordan Insists on 'Unity'

JN1807082494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Another round of bilateral Jordanian-Israeli negotiations will begin this morning in Wadi al-'Arabah, north of al-'Aqabah. In a news conference at the Holiday Inn Hotel in al-'Aqabah last night, Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, official spokesman for the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, said that the inaugural session will open at 1000 [0700 GMT]. He noted that this session will be headed by Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian negotiating delegation, and by Mr. [Elyaqim Rubinstein], head of the Israeli negotiating delegation, and will be attended by 15 members from both sides.

During the inaugural session which will last until 1300, the heads of both delegations will deliver two speeches. This session will be followed by a short break until 1400 when the two sides will resume their meeting in the form of working committees—namely, the border committee, the security committee, and the water, energy, and environment committee—until 1800. This is to be followed by separate new conferences for the official spokesmen of both sides.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said that the two sides will resume their meeting at 1000 the next morning [19 July] to continue discussing the issues in the joint agenda. At the end of this meeting, the heads of the two delegations will hold a joint new conference in the presence of media representatives from both sides.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir went on to say: Jordan insists on the unity and integrity of the issues in the agenda because this agenda should be taken as a package deal and not as separate issues. He noted that all provisions of the agenda carry equal importance and require solutions.

He added that the issues included under the headline of "agenda provisions" as well as the issues which will be tackled during today's meeting seek to achieve a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in accordance with UN security Council Resolution 242. He said bilateral issues will not be discussed in isolation from the joint agenda. He added that when Jordan talks about a comprehensive solution, it talks about comprehensiveness that is frankly stipulated in the agenda and is considered one of its provisions. [passage omitted]

Al-Tarawinah Addresses Session

JN1807084294 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 0727 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Speech by Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, chief Jordanian delegate at the opening session of the Jordanian-Israeli talks in Wadi al-'Arabah in southern Jordan—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [preceding sentence in Arabic] Ambassador Rubinstein, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, may God's peace and blessings be upon you. [preceding eight words in Arabic] At the outset, I should like to welcome you and to make the observation that our meeting today represents an important junction in our common search for peace. It is appropriate on this occasion to reiterate my government's commitment to a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace. It is in this pursuit of this lofty aim that we come here today to commence, in good faith, negotiations in order to find mutually satisfactory solutions to some important items on our agenda. It is our expectation that the satisfactory results of the negotiations and accepted agreements will culminate in a treaty of peace that delineates carefully our rights and duties under conditions of peace. By doing so, we minimize the areas of future friction and disputes, thus contributing to the establishment of a desirable peace with tangible results that can be enjoyed by all people in our region. Our meeting today also represents a delicate balance between the need to address all questions on the agenda on the one hand, and on the other, the desirability of making immediate progress on some of those issues. We shall, of course, honor our commitments and implement them in good faith.

Although the process of peace-building is arduous, given the complexity of the issues involved, we can take comfort in the fact that we do not start from scratch. We have agreement on a common agenda, and in the last meeting of the trilateral commission in Washington, we were able to finalize a common sub agenda on borders and other territorial matters on security and on water. With respect to borders, while maintaining the integrity and the totality of the issue, we think our work will be considerably facilitated, if concentrating on the area where the proposed road is contemplated. We could begin by discussing the modalities for the preparation of joint maps. This could be followed, or as necessary accompanied by a joint physical survey of the area in question. May we express the confident hope that the experience gained from the work of the subcommission on borders will be useful for the work of other subcommissions, and will, therefore, facilitate our work.

At the same time, we are fortunate in that the sub agenda on water, energy, and environment has been finalized and we propose that we should enter immediately into substantive negotiations on these important items. Similarly, work on the security subcommission should commence. We are glad to know that the sub agenda for the subcommission on security was satisfactorily finalized in our last meeting in Washington.

It is obvious that there is a great deal of interdependence between the work of the three subcommissions. We hope that we can establish a reasonably flexible structure to ensure coordination under the umbrella commission to avoid duplication of efforts and to arrive at an integrated solution. It is equally obvious that a similar degree of interdependence exists between the topics we are now dealing with and others on the common agenda which will be negotiated once progress has been achieved on our immediate task. We also agree that negotiations on economic matters will continue in order to prepare for future bilateral cooperation.

As our meeting begins, we should be motivated to live up to the forthcoming historical responsibilities. In a week, His Majesty King Husayn will meet in Washington with the prime minister of Israel, Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin, as guests of the President of the United States of America, Bill Clinton. The United States Congress will host both leaders as an indication of the commitment and dedication of the American people and administration to the cause of peace. In addition, the trilateral meetings, which are scheduled to meet the day after tomorrow, shall witness another historical event where the foreign ministers of Jordan, the United States, and Israel will meet. The political will to construct lasting peace, as embodied in these meetings, should underscore our resolve to see to it that the outcome is practical achievement, and is commensurate to the hopes and aspiration of our people.

Lastly, I should like to reiterate my words of welcome. My government will not spare any efforts to create conditions conducive to the comfort and well-being of all participants in this meeting, and we hope that our location, which bears testimony to the imperatives of geographic proximity and interdependence, will inspire us to arrive at tangible results so that the fruits of our common endeavors may be felt by ordinary men and women in our long- suffering region. Thank you very much.

Rubinstein Addresses Meeting

JN1807085094 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 0733 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Speech by Elyaqim Rubinstein, chief Israeli delegate at the opening session of the Jordanian-Israeli talks in Wadi al-'Arabah in southern Jordan—live]

[Text] Thank you very much. My friend and colleague Ambassador al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation. My Israeli and Jordanian colleagues, ladies and gentlemen: With God's help, we have today reached an important milestone in our work together, hopefully leading to the desired treaty of peace between Israel and Jordan. We welcome you all here. Peace be upon you. [preceding four words said in both Hebrew and Arabic]

On Wednesday [20 July], our Jordanian colleagues will extend to us the hospitality on the Jordanian shore of the Dead Sea when a trilateral U.S.-Israeli-Jordanian economic committee will convene to be blessed by [Jordanian] Prime Minister al-Majali—with whom we walked his former incarnation as head of delegation—foreign minister Shim'on Peres, and Secretary of State Warren Christopher. This special historic period will culminate next Monday in the meeting in the White House, graciously hosted by President Clinton, between His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister Rabin, who will later address a joint meeting of Congress. This unprecedented event should usher a new era in our relationship.

Ladies and gentlemen: This meeting takes place in a tent. The tent is tentative, but peace should and will be permanent. We are at a very warm spot of our two countries. The temperature is high. It is only natural to express the hope that the Israel-Jordanian peaceful relations will be warm forever.

The arrangements here today have been jointly implemented by both sides. This spirit of cooperation should inspire us in the future.

Friends and colleagues: The peace we seek is between two states, but also between peoples. Our work with our Jordanian colleagues for over two years has convinced us that the potential for our relationship to prosper is there. And the moving of the negotiation to the region, which was suggested by us ever since the beginning of the Madrid peace process, should bring even closer home to the peoples of Israel and of Jordan the message of peace. And indeed, the overwhelming majority of the Israeli public supports peace with Jordan.

We are meeting today, close to sites that have witnessed important event of history ever since ancient days. Biblical and Jewish history, Arab history, world history. We are today near the gulf, on the shores of which the two thriving adjacent cities of al-'Aqabah and Elat, the southern tip of both countries, prosper as centers of tourism and maritime transportation.

We are presently at the Jordan rift valley, the area connecting our two countries with the most imaginative potential for future joint ventures, turning the Dead Sea into the sea of life and the valley into a valley of peace.

This should include tourism, resource development, and exploration of minerals. There is almost no limit to what can be achieved here in the new era.

My colleagues: Historically, there has been no animosity between Jews and Arabs on both sides of the Jordan River. Over the last 70 years, even throughout the wars that divided us since 1948, which included bitter moments of hostility and human suffering, mutual respect has been maintained for extended periods. On its part, the Israeli leadership continued over the years to respect the Hashemite Kingdom and the royal family. The last 24 years of relative calm on our cease-fire line have strengthened this perception.

The new horizons opened up by the Madrid peace conference of 1991 have, for the first time, created a political negotiating framework for Israelis and Jordanians to sit around a table and discuss peace. In the beginning, Jordan provided a roof for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. On September 14, 1993, Israel and Jordan signed their first substantial agreement, the common agenda, which has served as the basis for continued negotiation. It was complemented by a number of agreements, the sub agendas in June 1994, which have ushered this day.

Our work so far included also the Israel-Jordan-U.S. economic committee, announced in Washington in October 1993 by President Clinton, Crown Prince Hasan, and Foreign Minister Peres. Our negotiations have been marked by a cordial atmosphere between the delegations, a human touch, and a sense of humor even in difficult situations.

Ladies and gentlemen: The relationship with Jordan has been central to Israel's peace policy. For a while after the agreement with the Palestinians, an impression could have been created that the Israeli-Jordanian track has been somewhat sidetracked. What we see nowadays, this week, and next week attests to the contrary. We look forward to the negotiations with Jordan, which are part and parcel of the overall bilateral and multilateral effort of peace between Israel and its neighbors.

What is on our work agenda in the coming days? There is a (?message) we would like to convey. There is no doubt in our minds that our bilateral matters can be negotiated and finalized in a treaty of peace. Nevertheless, the issues are not easy. The boundary between the two countries has never in history been delineated or demarcated. No single person on earth knows exactly the location of the boundary. In our common agenda agreement, we made reference to mandatory definitions, but the process which will lead to the erection of boundary milestones requires hard work, deprived of media limelights in the burning sun. However, it will be achieved. In this framework, we should make common use of the boundary area for creating development to joint economic ventures, the proposed Jordan-Israel-Egypt road could be a significant achievement symbolizing peace.

Water is the lifeline of every human being. The God-given rainwater and Yarmuk and Jordan Rivers waters will not be enough to both of us before after [as heard] allocations are agreed upon. We must develop, in addition to desalination, more resources. We must also work towards maximizing the availability of existing waters, which must be saved. It is a complex mission, but again workable. This subject is coupled with environment, the new layer of civility, aimed at the alleviation of human suffering and improving the quality of life and with efforts for creating sources of energy to both countries.

Security is a cornerstone of peace, and it means a variety of efforts to build confidence and to assure against terrorism and third-party military manipulation. This, too, is an achievable goal. Peace must include, of course, the whole range of relations—diplomatic and economic, including free trade and the abolition of boycott. People on both sides must interact with each other. Matters may develop gradually, parallel to efforts in all the spheres, sometimes in small, mutual steps. Visible events, such as a meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister Rabin, could definitely help in breaking the psychological barriers.

Friends and colleagues: Let me conclude by quoting Prophet Isaiah, Yesha'ayahu, whose eternal words are so appropriate here in the 'Aravah and now: The wilderness and the dry land 'Aravah shall be glad [word indistinct] and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the lily. From the wilderness shall water break out and brooks in the 'Aravah. [the quote is read in Hebrew, Arabic, and English respectively]

Thank you very much.

Al-Mu'ashshir on Rubinstein Speech

JN1807103994 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 0820 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Interview with Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, official spokesman for the Jordanian delegation to talks with Israel, by correspondent Kassab Samawi in Wadi al-'Arabah—live]

[Text] [Samawi] Once again from the site of the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations in Wadi al-'Arabah. As you have seen, the opening session ended a short while ago. With us here is Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, official spokesman for the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks. Dr. Marwan, you followed up the opening session and heard the speech chief Israeli delegate Elyaqim Rubinstein delivered. Have you found in his speech any signals of good intention or a positive stand toward the topics of discussion?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] First of all, the Jordanian delegation's speech touched on the topics that will be discussed now at the bilateral talks. These are, of course, issues of border, security, water, environment, and energy. However, we at the same time discussed the agenda and the need to maintain the unity of the agenda and to address all topics. We also noted that the Israeli speech was also positive and concentrated on the need to discuss and resolve outstanding problems. I think the meeting was permeated with an atmosphere of seriousness. We hope to form committees in order to discuss and resolve these problems in a serious and continuous manner.

[Samawi] Do you mean, Dr. Marwan, that in light of the speeches delivered, addressing the issues of land and water is now easier?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] It is naturally difficult to judge things from an opening session, but I think the speeches were positive and gave a good atmosphere for the start of talks.

[Samawi] Could you tell as what will happen after the opening session and before you hold your news conference at 1800 [1500 GMT] today?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Now we will be divided into three groups, one on borders, another on security, and a third on water, environment, and energy. These groups will now start a detailed discussion after agreement has been reached on the sub-agenda in Washington. Therefore, we right from now are ready to directly wage into the details. We will have a lunch break from 1300-1400 and then resume talks until 1800.

[Samawi] Thank you.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Thank you.

Beilin Expects Agreement

TA1807101194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Sheli Yehimovich; place not given; from the "Its All Talk" program—live]

[Text] [Yehimovich] Good morning, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

[Beilin] Good morning.

[Yehimovich] Well, Elyaqim Rubinstein may have concluded his speech by expressing hopes that the desert would now bloom; however, on analysis, his speech was pretty tough. We do not appear ready to give anything up right away.

[Beilin] Nor should we give up anything at once. We are going to hold negotiations. I would say that two points are important and should be noted: The first point pertains to the border. It is important to know that both parties only agree on about four km of this very long border which was never clearly demarcated. We now have to agree on every inch, not only on the map but also on the ground. That is a task that will take experts months to conclude. The second point relates to water. With regard to this, there are two approaches. One approach is that taken by the Arab countries and the Palestinians, who constantly raise the issue of water rights and make various demands and claims about how much water we owe them since the establishment of the state. As opposed to our view which says that instead of getting bogged down in endless arguments on water issues—since both parties have demands and claims—let us see how we can share a larger pie instead of the limited amount we have today.

[Yehimovich] In other words, to establish joint water desalination plants like Elyaqim Rubinstein said?

[Beilin] Right. But not only water desalination plants. There are a number of issues here: water recycling, maximum exploitation of water resources for agriculture, and water desalination which is of course the most expensive of the lot. There are also two levels here, one dealing with saline water and the other with sea water which is the most costly. The cost of all this is not beyond our reach if we can reach agreement. We discussed all this with Fayiz al-Tarawinah and his associates last week in Tunis, and if we can reach agreement that the managing of water resources will focus on increasing the size of the pie will help prevent unnecessary friction and....

[Yehimovich, interrupting] Yes, but when we talk about agreement on resolving the water problem by increasing this resource it means that we are not prepared to give up any part of the existing pie.

[Beilin] The truth of the matter is that we gave Jordan millions of cubic meters of water out of the existing pie when it was experiencing a drought or had special needs. We never said that we would insist on every cubic meter. Jordan has many water needs and is facing difficulties in this respect but we also suffer from a severe water shortage and therefore cannot afford to be overly generous. Besides, each party has its own demands. This is not a one-sided matter. If we get into a historical argument about the Johnston Plan from the early 1950's and its various interpretations, as well as other agreements and historical commitments, then in my opinion, we will never resolve the matter.

[Yehimovich] At the beginning of our program, we spoke with a hydrologist who is familiar with the legal aspects of water issues. He said that in the rest of the world, whenever two countries share a common water reservoir, then what counts is who had first possession. That gives us the advantage over Jordan.

[Beilin] Look, there are many ways to view this matter and the opinion you just quoted is widely accepted. I believe that what we should do is refrain from plucking each other's feathers out with regard to past rights because there are endless interpretations. We should work together to find financial sources in order to increase water resources; and I believe that this is possible. If there is goodwill on the Jordanian side they can accept this approach for the benefit of both sides in order to achieve results within a short time and resolve difficult problems on both sides.

[Yehimovich] Mr. Beilin, many niggling and pesky issues as well as significant problems will feature on the delegations' agenda. How does this fit in with Foreign Minister Peres' assertion that all we need to sign a peace agreement with Jordan is a pen? It appears that much more than a pen is called for.

[Beilin] Mr. Peres used a figure of speech which is true in the sense that Jordan and Israel do not have to resolve disagreements with regard to Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, security borders, or demilitarization. All we have to do is exactly map out the borders and this is not a dispute over hundreds of kilometers. There is also the water issue which is basically resolvable. This is not an insolvable problem. If you ask me today about the final borders between the confederative or federative Jordanian-Israeli framework and Israel, I have no answer yet because we still have to conduct tough negotiations. As for the Golan Heights, I also have no answer. On the other hand, as you stated earlier, the issues under negotiation between Jordan and Israel, despite being numerous, are to a great extent minor problems. It could take several months of hard work but we shall eventually resolve them. The question is only whether King Husayn is prepared to sign a peace agreement, not whether a peace agreement with Jordan is attainable despite all these problems. I can already tell you today that Jordan and Israel can reach an agreement within several months. We do not need more than that.

[Yehimovich] In his speech, Fayiz al-Tarawinah, the head of the Jordanian delegation, said that solutions must be found to all the issues on the agenda which are tightly linked. He said that although the economic talks would continue, progress could only be made if similar progress was made on the really important issues of territory, borders, water, and security. This condition is a bit limiting, is it not?

[Beilin] I do not think so. The Jordanians claim that all this progress was made possible by Israel's agreement to discuss the issue of border demarcation. From the standpoint of Jordanian public opinion, it is convenient for them to present the border issue as a very important and crucial issue which justifies the discussion of other matters. This statement was directed first and foremost at the Jordanian public and this is understandable. However, as I said before we are not talking about unbridgeable gaps between our positions. Since I believe that our differences can be resolved, I do not regard this condition as problematic.

[Yehimovich] When, in your opinion, will Israelis be able to shop in Amman?

[Beilin] That of course will only be possible if Jordan is prepared to sign a peace agreement. I would find it easier to predict how long it will take to conclude negotiations between the parties and I estimate that as taking approximately six months. The question is if after these six months, when everything has been concluded, King Husayn will take the pen out of his pocket and sign, or whether he will ask us to wait for other parties in the region to sign peace agreements. I hope that he will sign an agreement with us out of Jordan's own interest, without implying in any way that a peace agreement between Jordan and Israel precludes any agreement with Syria or Lebanon. We understand that a comprehensive Middle East peace must include Syria and we want to reach a comprehensive peace.

[Yehimovich] So we can only hope, as Elyaqim Rubinstein said, that the peace will be as warm as the tent in 'En 'Avrona. Thank you very much.

Paper Gives Schedule for al-Majali-Peres Meeting

JN1807071294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Nirmin Murad from al-'Aqabah]

[Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will hold a hold a bilateral meeting at the Dead Sea Hotel on July 20, Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, spokesman of the Jordanian delegation, said Sunday [17 July]. The surprise meeting will come after a trilateral meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher ends and Mr. Christopher leaves the site of talks which will concentrate on economic cooperation.

The trilaterals at the Dead Sea will open at 11:00 a.m. on July 20 with a meeting among experts of the three countries followed by the meeting at foreign ministers level at 2.00 p.m.

Mr. Peres will arrive by helicopter at a landing pad near the Dead Sea Hotel and will be escorted by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan by car to the site of negotiations. Thirty experts from the Israeli side will meet with their Jordanian and American experts on the morning of the first two days of trilaterals.

At 3:00 p.m. the foreign ministers of U.S., Israel and Jordan will go into a private meeting which will be attended by two additional delegates from each side and a notetaker. Joining Premier al-Majali will be Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah and Munthir Haddadin and 'Umar al-Rifa'i will be taking notes.

This will be followed by a joint press conference by the three heads of delegations which will be carried live by Jordan Television and Israeli Television. The opening session of the trilaterals, during which all three foreign ministers will give opening statements, will be held at 2:10 p.m. and will end at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Peres said the launch of peace negotiations with Jordan would mark and end to more than 45 years of a state of war between the two neighbours. "The era of war with Jordan is over," Mr. Peres told reporters at the Israeli foreign ministry on Sunday [17 July]. "I think we are opening an entirely new situation. This is an initiative for a new future for all the people."

Palestinian-Israeli Talks Resume in Cairo

Talks Previewed

NC1707123194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian sources have stated that at tomorrow's round of talks to be held in Cairo, the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators will discuss the transfer of powers to the Palestinian self-rule authority in the fields of education, taxation, health, tourism, and social affairs, in addition to the other pending topics related to the Gaza-Jericho Agreement.

Speaking to MENA, the same sources added that Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation and head of the Palestinian side at the talks, and Danny Rothschild, coordinator of the Israeli Government's activity in the occupied territories, discussed the arrangements for tomorrow's round of talks at an informal meeting in Cairo last week.

Palestinian delegation member Jamil al-Tarifi has stated that there is a shortage of Palestinian tax department employees, particularly since 98 percent of those working for the tax collection department in the West Bank are Israelis. He noted that the talks will discuss ways to prepare Palestinian teams trained in the field of taxation to prepare for tax collection as well as the question of the West Bank budget.

At the end of the previous round of Palestinian-Israeli talks, Dr. Sha'th stated that during tomorrow's round the Israeli side would submit a list of 800 political detainees who have not yet been freed. Under the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, 5,000 prisoners are scheduled to be freed, but so far, 4,200 prisoners have been released.

Education Authority Discussed

NC1807092994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on outstanding issues resumed in Cairo this morning.

A responsible Palestinian source said that today's negotiations are being held on the Civilian Affairs Committee level and will discuss the transfer of the education authority to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA].

The Palestinian side is led by Nabil Qassis, head of the committee for the transfer of civilian authorities to the PNA.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the PNA and the head of the Palestinian delegation to the talks, is not taking part; he is in Gaza to follow up developments there in the wake of the bloody incidents in the city yesterday resulting in the deaths of 18 Palestinians and the wounding of 100 others when Palestinians and the Israeli forces clashed.

The Palestinian ambassador in Cairo, Zuhdi al-Qidrah, stressed that yesterday's events in Gaza occurred because the Israeli army provokes Palestinians by imposing delays and search procedures when the Palestinian workers cross to work inside Israel. In a statement to MENA, al-Qidrah said the Israeli provocation does not help stability and does not help to move the peace process forward. He added that the Israeli side must abide by the Israeli-Palestinian Agreement signed in Cairo on 4 May.

Inter-Arab Affairs

AMU Interior Ministers Meet in Algiers

LD1707150294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Excerpts] The proceedings of the meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Arab Maghreb Union's [AMU] interior ministers opened this morning at Djenane El-Mithaq under the chairmanship of Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif, minister of interior and local authorities.

The Ministerial Council, which was preceded by a meeting of the experts, will discuss many files, among which are those in connection with the movement of persons, cooperation at the level of local and regional authorities, and coordination in the sphere of combating natural catastrophes. More details are in a report by colleague Brahim Ziouadj:

[Ziouadj] The third session of the AMU Interior Ministers' Ministerial Council will study numerous important files, among which are: The movement and residence of persons in the AMU, cooperation in the sphere of local authorities, and coordination in the sphere of combating natural catastrophes.

Interior Minister Cherif presided over the opening of the session because Algeria heads the Maghreban Union, and delivered a speech in which he concentrated on important issues. These are:

First, the need to produce a practical and well-studied work plan that contributes toward promoting Maghreban work for serving common interests and bring benefits to the citizens and the peoples of the region.

In this context, the Algerian interior minister stressed the need to pay attention to the issues of the Maghreban citizen and overcoming the difficulties that face him in his daily life inside the Maghreban countries.

Second, the necessity to find formulae and means to coordinate the Maghreban development programs with the aim of integrating them, achieving security and stability, and reasonably controlling the paths of development and unity.

Third, working toward eliminating all circumstantial disagreements which, as Interior Minister Cherif has affirmed, should not pause as an obstacle in the way of the comprehensive nature of the efforts and the integrated nature of the goals through the sincere, frank, and fraternal dialogue and impartial consultation.

The fourth issue, which the interior minister concentrated on in his opening address, is the need to achieve the dream of the consecutive Maghreban generations, particularly the coming generations.

He pointed out in this respect that history always reminds us of the need for collaboration, cohesiveness, cooperation, and brotherhood in order not to lose as an entity and a nation. He called for the AMU to be like a single body, which if a part of it complained, the rest of the body would come out in its support.

Fifth, coordinating the stances between the union's countries, and appearing as a single entity to foil foreign conspiracies without this stance being convulsive or becoming a reason for isolation and closing the door to the world outside.

In this context, Interior Minister Cherif said the following:

[Begin Cherif recording] Our AMU is facing many challenges, the most important of which is probably maintaining its stability and security, and promoting its economy. The wager that should be won today is represented by foiling all the attempts that are being hatched against us, continuing the firm steps toward achieving the dreams of our predecessors for many past decades and the dreams of the coming generations for our AMU, and make our potential and capability a collective fund that reaches the level of confronting these challenges. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Ziouadj] The proceedings continued later in a closed session. The head of state, Liamine Zeroual, is expected to receive the Maghreban interior ministers this evening.

Meeting Ends in Algiers

LD1707204894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Before their audience with the head of state today, AMU [Arab Maghreb Union] interior ministers held a meeting in El Mithaq Residence to examine issues pertaining to the economy and security of the region. The third session of AMU interior ministers's council started today under the chairmanship of Mr Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif, minister of interior and local authorities. The session examined several issues including the movement and residence of persons, the project of a unified Maghreban identity card, and cooordination concerning security matters between member states. Nassima Kirat reports:

[Kirat] At their meeting today, AMU interior ministers tackled a range of issues pertaining to the edification of the Greater Arab Maghreb Union, including preserving the stability of the Arab Maghreb by foiling all conspiracies hatched against our Maghreban entity, focusing on human and material resources to secure self-sufficiency, as well as unifying efforts between member states. The common destiny and the integrating of objectives are likely to secure the desired development which should not be impeded by temporary differences which will hopefully disappear, as the interior minister stressed, through fraternal and frank dialogue, a responsibility to history and the generations. [passage omitted]

[Presenter] The work of this third session ended this evening with the signing of the minutes of an agreement on issues of common interest to secure the objectives of integration and unity. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Rioters Shot at Gaza Border Crossing

Israeli Soldiers Kill Two, Wound 50

NC1707074594 Paris AFP in English 0542 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 17 (AFP)—Israeli soldiers shot dead two Palestinians and wounded about 50 more during clashes at the checkpoint to enter Israel from the Gaza Strip on Sunday [17 July], a PLO official said.

The new Palestinian health "minister" Riyad Al-Za'nun gave the casualty toll to AFP at Gaza City's main hospital. Six of the wounded were seriously hurt, he said.

[Paris AFP in English at 0726 GMT on 17 July adds the following:

["Erez, Gaza Strip, July 17 (AFP)—Palestinian police and Israeli troops exchanged fire at the main Gaza Strip checkpoint on Sunday leaving one wounded on each side after rioting by Arab workers, witnesses reported.

["They said an Israeli soldier was seriously wounded in the firing, which started after a Palestinian policeman was shot. It lasted about 30 minutes. The shooting followed the killing of two Palestinian workers and wounding of about 50 more during rioting at the roadblocks. Israelis and Palestinians man their own roadblocks at Erez, a couple of hundred metres (yards) apart."]

Further on Gaza Riots

TA1707104294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] In the course of the riots at the Erez checkpoint, two border policemen and an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier were wounded by shots fired by Palestinian policemen. Another 17 border policemen and an Egged bus driver were injured by stones. Hisham 'Abd-al-Razzaq, one of the leaders of Fatah in the Gaza Strip, reported that three Palestinian workers had been killed and 70 wounded. The Palestinian police assert that the casualties among the workers were caused by IDF gunfire.

Border policemen, IDF troops, and Palestinian policemen initially fired at the crowds of rioters in order to impose order; however, in the ensuing melee everyone began firing at each other. The Palestinian police arrested several of the rioting laborers and placed roadblocks in Gaza City in order to prevent the town's residents from coming to the Erez checkpoint.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that in an emergency meeting of the police brass in Gaza City, the heads of the Palestinian security services reported that the local opposition groups were exploiting the situation in order to inflame passions. The leaders of the Palestinian police decided to disengage from the crowds in order to prevent additional casualties. IDF soldiers were also instructed to hold their fire.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat berated the heads of the Palestinian police over the large number of Palestinian casualties.

The commander of IDF forces in the Qatif Bloc, Brigadier General Doron Almog and General Ziyad al-Atrash, the head of the Palestinian representation to the joint security committee, are now holding a meeting in a bid to quell the riots.

The riots began this morning when Palestinian policemen fired in an attempt to disperse thousands of workers who attempted to enter Israel without work permits. The crowd attacked and burned an empty IDF outpost. The crowd then broke into an adjacent parking lot and burned dozens of Egged buses and a gas station.

Riots have started in al-Zahiriyah and in Policeman's Square in Hebron. Local residents, inspired by the riots at the Erez checkpoint started hurling rocks. Two border policemen were lightly injured by stones. The IDF has imposed a curfew on the market in al-Zahiriyah and on Policeman's Square in Hebron. Riots also occurred in Ramallah and the IDF closed off the area.

Riots Continue

TA1707113994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Excerpts] The riots at the Erez checkpoint have resumed. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that several hundred youths from the Gaza Strip rushed to the burned-out Egged parking lot and hurled firebombs and rocks at the Palestinian police. The policemen returned fire and wounded several of the rioters. Our correspondent Moti Amir says that some of the rioters have firearms and are shooting at border policemen and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops. The commander of the Southern Command has arrived on the scene. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian radio broadcasting from Jericho claims that six Palestinian policemen have been wounded in a 20-minute exchange of fire with IDF soldiers at the Erez checkpoint. This was reported by our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus.

Border Police Commander Yitzhaq Aharonovich told our correspondent that Palestinian policemen deliberately fired at Israeli border policemen and at the car in which Chief Superintendent Husayn Faris, the commander of the Border Police in the Gaza Strip, was travelling. He was not hurt. [passage omitted]

Here is some reaction by opposition parties: The Moledet faction says that the IDF abandoned its soldiers at the entrance to the Gaza Strip despite clear warnings that bloody riots may erupt there. The Tzomet faction called on the government to immediately shut down the

Palestinian radio station. Knesset Member Eli'ezer Sandberg said that the station, which operates with the assistance of the Israeli Government, was broadcasting blatant anti-Israeli propaganda verging on unbridled sedition.

Crowds Protest Shootings

NC1707115294 Paris AFP in English 1126 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 17 (AFP)—Thousands of Gaza residents Sunday [17 July] shouted slogans against peace with Israel, and urged revenge for the deaths of two Palestinians killed in a riot against Israeli soldiers.

The protesters, standing in the courtyard of the city's main hospital, gathered shortly after riots erupted at the Erez crossing point early Sunday.

Two Palestinians were killed and 75 wounded in the Erez clashes. Three Israeli soldiers were seriously injured.

"Revenge, revenge for the martyrs," a crowd of some 3,000 men shouted as they heard Palestinian Health "Minister" Riyad al-Za'nun give the casualty toll over a loudspeaker.

Waving the green flags of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, they chanted "this peace is invalid, we greet the units of 'Izz-al-Din," referring to the movement's military wing 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam.

Hamas is opposed to the PLO-Israeli autonomy agreement, but has recently shown signs of complying with the new Palestinian self-rule authority.

Some in the crowd jeered as al-Za'nun mentioned PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's name, and said it was futile for him to contact international organizations.

Earlier, 'Arafat sent protests to the United Nations and the United States, and called in all his "ministers" for an emergency session after the worst violence since autonomy began in Gaza and Jericho on May 4.

Al-Za'nun appealed for calm and for blood donations. He said 75 people were wounded, including 15 Palestinian policemen and workers.

Hamas and another opposition group, al-Jihad al-Islami, called for three days of mourning and a one-day general commercial strike.

The PLO also called for a day of mourning, 'Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani said.

Jericho Radio Reports Casualties

JN1707160094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] The press spokesman for the National Security Forces has stated the following:

As a result of what the Israeli police force, the border guard, and the settlers have carried out against Palestinian workers at Erez checkpoint this morning, 25 Palestinian policemen were wounded, two seriously, as well as 60 workers, four of whom were seriously wounded. In addition to this, two were martyred: Riyad Yasin and Yasir al-Sultan.

Rioting Subsides

TA1707155794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Excerpt] At the Erez checkpoint between Israel and the Gaza Strip, rioting by Palestinian workers has subsided. Palestinian police this afternoon dispersed hundreds of rioters in the Erez industrial area and restored order.

The fierce clashes between the workers and both Palestinian and Israeli security forces lasted all day, leaving at least two Palestinians dead and 20 Israeli Border Police and soldiers wounded, one of them very seriously. An Israeli civilian was also lightly hurt. Dozens of Palestinians were wounded in the rioting which broke out early this morning as thousands of workers stormed the Erez crossing to get into Israel. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 17 July carries a related report by Arab affairs correspondent Oren Kohen, who adds that "at this time, thousands of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters, activists, and leaders are rallying opposite the al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza, where most of the Palestinian casualties from the Erez events are hospitalized, and are shooting in the air and calling for terminating the peace process.

["Palestinian sources claim that 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam members, who mingled with Palestinian policemen, also shot at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers at Erez." Kohen adds that "members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine are also participating in the Gaza rally" and that "the rejectionist organizations have declared a three-day mourning period and a commercial strike in the Gaza Strip."]

IDF Holds News Conference

TA1707131094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1205 GMT 17 Jul 94

[News conference by Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, Israel Defense Forces chief of staff, at Erez checkpoint in the Gaza Strip; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] [Baraq] ...and another border policeman and a soldier were slightly injured, in addition to 12 soldiers injured by blocks, stones, metal objects, and so forth.

The event originated from the failure of the Palestinian police to adhere to a commitment deriving from an agreement, the gist of which is that the only Palestinians who may reach the Erez checkpoint are those who have work permits and who were previously checked by the Palestinian police and found to be clean of any weapons whatsoever.

This morning—by the way, the same thing happened last week—several hundred Palestinians who had been refused work permits arrived at the checkpoint, and when they were told that they would not be allowed into Israel, they began to riot. The troops pushed them back to the Palestinian checkpoint. The Palestinian police tried to handle them, but they broke through the Palestinian police roadblocks and again reached the industrial zone, as most of you must have seen, causing heavy damage to the cement plant, the bus stop, and the local gas station.

[Qol Yisra'el correspondent Nisim Qeynan] What is the situation at present?

[Baraq] Right now, the fire is being extinguished. The Palestinian police have pushed the rioters back behind their roadblocks. Right now, the crossing point is closed, and it will remain closed until we are absolutely sure that [words indistinct] and the Palestinians initiate arrangements that ensure that such things will not recur: that no people without permits will arrive at the checkpoint; that the size of groups will correspond to the agreement. We further expect them to launch an investigation into the conduct of some Palestinian policemen who shot and wounded Border Police soldiers.

I must note here that if the Border Police and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] brigade who were here during the event had not exercised supreme self-restraint, the event might have ended with a much heavier toll on both sides.

[Qol Yisra'el Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe] [Words indistinct] and yet, Chief of Staff, could the Army not prepare for such a contingency? This population has no food. That is its main problem.

[Baraq] In the wake of last week's events, we held a coordination meeting with the Palestinians last night, and it was agreed that several Palestinian commanders would arrive at the checkpoint at 0300 this morning in order to personally supervise the transit of people in groups of appropriate size and to ensure that only those who have permits are allowed through. This did not happen, and it was another lapse on their part, which I am unable to explain.

As for their right to work, it is a right, and it is reserved only for Palestinians who have permits. In general, that right will be granted only if the Palestinians are able to abide by the rules and prevent rioting of this kind. There is no job that goes together with vandalism and the endangering of human life, as happened this morning.

[Words indistinct] and it will be opened only after we are convinced that the other side has taken all the appropriate steps to ensure that people without permits are unable to cross and that adequate Palestinian troops with sufficient backup are deployed both at the Palestinian roadblock that is situated some 600 meters south of here and at the midway roadblock, some 400 meters south of here, in order to prevent the arrival of either rioting crowds or people who do not have Israeli entry permits.

The situation has changed: We are no longer in charge of security inside Gaza, and we are not responsible for activity in Gaza. Yet the other side of the agreement is that the Palestinian police are to be responsible for preventing the arrival of unauthorized people and, naturally, for preventing the kind of rioting we witnessed this morning.

[Unidentified correspondent] Who is responsible for wounding Israelis and wounding and killing Palestinians?

[Baraq] The Israelis were wounded by gunfire from several Palestinian policemen. In our opinion, there is no problem identifying them, and we expect them to be identified and dealt with in accordance with either our or their law.

[Correspondent] Did they fire deliberately at the troops?

[Baraq] At a certain point, they fired deliberately, aiming to hit Border Police and IDF soldiers. In my opinion, some of the Palestinians were hit by Palestinian policemen's gunfire and some as a result of shots fired in self-defense by IDF and Border Police soldiers when the serious rioting reached them and the industrial zone.

[Correspondent] Have the Palestinians announced new steps they will take as a result of this morning's events?

[Baraq] We have approached the Palestinians through the JSC [Joint Security Committee] and the DCO [District Coordination and Cooperation Offices] and told them what we expect them to do. I am convinced that the comprehension of the agreement, on one hand, and the comprehension of the import of the steps we may be forced to take as a result of today's events, on the other, will cause the other side to seriously contemplate whatever action is necessary on their part and under their responsibility to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

[Correspondent] Have there been no joint operational decisions as yet?

[Baraq] I have not talked to the Palestinians, except for a brief meeting with Furayh Abu-Middayn. We will hold more meetings later today, and I am positive the situation will be clarified.

PFLP-GC Denounces 'Massacre'

JN1707184794 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Statement by an unidentified spokesman for the PFLP-GC on the riots at the Erez border crossing in the Gaza Strip; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] An official spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] in Gaza has made a statement on the new Gaza massacre, committed by the Zionist enemy against our brave workers. The statement says:

In behavior surprising only some of those who have been deceived by the illusions of the so-called peace, the Zionist enemy forces, within the hearing and sight of, and sometimes with the participation of 'Arafat's police, have committed an ugly bloody massacre, martyring many people and wounding scores of others at the Zionist Erez checkpoint in the northern part of the uprising strip this morning. The massacre reminds us of the crime the Zionists committed at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque.

The statement adds: This Zionist massacre reaffirms a number of facts we have repeatedly tried to stress, foremost of which is the fact that our conflict with this enemy is one of survival and that the Zionist enemy has established itself at the expense of Palestinian Arabs. This stresses the impossibility of so-called peace with this enemy. The ugly massacre dismisses the illusions 'Arafat and his policy sought to market to the Palestinian people.

What kind of peace is this that enables the Zionists to shed our people's blood? All this assures that 'Arafat's treacherous deal, known as the Gaza-Jericho accord, guarantees the enemy's security and enables it to shed Palestinian blood. What occurred in Gaza this morning is a living example. 'Arafat's police took part in the massacre and prevented our people from reaching the areas of confrontation to help our brave workers.

The statement also says: The Zionist enemy has always believed that massacres could weaken our people and abort their liberation struggle. But Palestinian blood has turned every massacre into a perpetual heroic deed. This is what Gaza, Hebron, Janin, Ramallah, Nabulus, and all our cities, villages, and camps have witnessed. This shows that our people are not exhausted by struggle and that they are fully prepared to continue their struggle and offer martyr after martyr.

O masses: Escalating struggle, the revolution's intifadah, and armed struggle is the only guaranteed reply to the enemy's massacres and crimes. Let us step up our legitimate struggle until we topple the treacherous Gaza-Jericho agreement and repulse the Zionist occupation. Let the ground become fire under the feet of the invaders and let all strugglers unite to achieve our people's goals. We in the PFLP-GC stress the call of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces for declaring a three-day mourning period and to escalate confrontation of the enemy everywhere. Glory and eternity to our righteous martyrs. It is a revolution until the liberation of land and man.

[Signed] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, Gaza Strip

Hamas Calls For End to Talks

NC1707145094 Paris AFP in English 1418 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, July 17 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas called on Arab countries Sunday [17 July] to break off talks with Israel for good after two Palestinians were killed in the worst violence since self-rule began in the Gaza Strip.

"Arabs should withdraw forever from the peace talks with Israel" the group said in a statement received by AFP in Beirut.

Hamas, which is opposed to the Middle East peace process, called three days of mourning in Gaza and the occupied West Bank to mark the clashes at the Erez crossing point which also wounded 75 Palestinians, six seriously, PLO officials said.

And it urged the new Palestinian police deployed in the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho to "stand by its people."

The statement said that despite recent peace accords "the occupying forces are continuing to perpetrate their odious massacres against our people, showing that the Zionist mentality feeds inexorably off aggression, terrorism and bloodshed."

Trouble erupted before dawn as thousands of Palestinians, many of whom had work permits, tried to force a passage through to Israel at Erez. Sporadic shots still rang out in mid-afternoon.

Israeli troops opened fire on rioters at the Erez checkpoint before Palestinian police, Israeli soldiers and Jewish settlers then became embroiled in prolonged exchanges of fire, correspondents at the scene reported.

Israeli military officials said three Jewish soldiers were injured by bullets, one critically. Another 20 Israeli troops and a civilian were hurt by stones in unprecedented bloodshed since autonomy began on May 4.

Hamas praised those "heroes" who stood up to the Israeli army and settlers in Gaza, and called on the Palestinian police to side with its people and "not repress its revolt, resistance and acts to revenge the blood of our martyrs."

And it added that Israel "only understands the language of weapons and resistance. Let those still living an illusion wake up."

Israelis 'Hampered' Evacuation

JN1707160994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] At a news conference this morning, Health Minister Riyad al-Za'nun said the forces of occupation hampered the evacuation of the wounded [at the Erez checkpoint] and opened fire on ambulances. A driver of one of the cars was wounded. The health minister added that three Palestinian policemen were also wounded in the clashes.

PNA: Israel Responsible for 'Massacre'

JN1707171594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] In a statement on the [Erez checkpoint] massacre, the official spokesman for the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] said: For the second time in one week Israeli Army authorities took arbitrary measures, including the closure of the checkpoint and insulting our Palestinian workers heading for work in Israel. This has resulted in aggravating the situation at the Erez checkpoint, where innocent workers again came under fire and tear gas shells.

The official spokesman continued: Since dawn today, 17 July 1994, Israeli occupation forces have been closing the checkpoint, without any justification, thus resulting in complaints among thousands of our militant workers who were awaiting permission to cross the checkpoint and head for their jobs.

The spokesman added: Without any real justification, the Israeli Army troops opened fire with various weapons on the crowds of our workers, using live ammunition, rubber bullets, and tear gas. This has resulted in the martyrdom of two of our toiling workers and the injury of a large number of workers and Palestinian policemen.

The PNA spokesman said that today's incidents again shed light on the seriousness of the Israeli Army's practices and frequent use of our workers need to earn a living to exploit the situation in this dangerous manner.

Concluding his statement, the official spokesman said: We hold the Israeli side fully responsible for the developments in the situation. We urge the Israeli Government to take the required the measures to hold those responsible for these incidents accountable in order to prevent their recurrence.

DFLP Condemns Shootings

JN1707171794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has condemned the massacre committed by the Israeli occupation authorities this morning. This massacre is no less serious and hideous than the massacre at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque.

In a statement distributed in Damascus today, a spokesman for the DFLP Political Bureau said reports received from the Gaza Strip confirm the large number of victims and wounded. The spokesman urged the sons of Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip to express their rejection of the policy of both massacres and humiliation by staging demonstrations and sit-ins in order to confirm their adherence to their national and social rights, which were sold out by the Oslo-Cairo agreement.

Closure Imposed on Gaza Strip

TA1707163494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Report by Nisim Qeynan]

[Text] Relative quiet is prevailing on the Palestinian side of the Gaza Strip at the moment. The riots have subsided for the time being, and a closure was imposed on the Strip until further notice. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Border Police units were reinforced by additional units, which have already deployed in the area to deal with any new conflagration.

'Arafat Protests to U.S., UN

LD1707181094 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Palestinian Health Minister Riyad al-Za'nun announced today that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat sent protest notes to the United States and the United Nations following the bloody confrontations in Gaza.

Za'nun, at al-Shifa' hospital in Gaza, said two Palestinians were killed and 75 were injured, seven critically, in the confrontation with Israeli soldiers.

He said when he was informed of the incident, President 'Arafat sent protest notes to U.S. Secretary of State Christopher and to the permanent members of the UN Security Council against the violation of the agreement signed with Israel.

Za'nun said that 'Arafat, who has been in Gaza since last Tuesday [12 July], summoned the ministers in the Palestinian National Authority. [as heard]

Za'nun accused elements in the Israeli Army and settlers, hiding around the [Erez] checkpoint, of opening fire to sabotage the peace process.

He said most of the injured had been hit in the upper part of their bodies. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Visits Wounded

NC1707173594 Paris AFP in English 1714 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Report by Najlah Sammakiya]

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 17 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat visited Palestinians wounded in violent clashes earlier Sunday [17 July] between workers and Israeli police and denounced the confrontation as "unacceptable."

'Arafat's visited Gaza's main al-Shifa' Hospital after the riots left two Palestinians dead and dozens wounded on both sides.

"What happened today is very dangerous, it is a war on people's livelihood," 'Arafat said as he toured the hospital beds, stopping to shake hands and kiss most of the 75 wounded Palestinians. This incident is unacceptable to the national authority and to the Palestinian people and free world. It is unacceptable at all levels."

The clashes which erupted before dawn were the worst bloodshed in Gaza since self-rule was launched on May 4. Hundreds of residents, gathered in the hospital courtyard, cheered when 'Arafat arrived and shouted nationalistic slogans. There was none of the anger expressed by the crowd which earlier protested against peace with Israel, and raised Moslem fundamentalist slogans calling for revenge.

Meanwhile, Riyad Ibrahim Yasin, one of the two dead Palestinians was buried in his home town in the Khan Yunis region of Gaza. His coffin was draped in the Palestinian flag, and hundreds of mourners joined the funeral procession, including armed members of the PLO mainstream Fatah faction who fired shots in the air.

The violence erupted when thousands of desperate workers tried to break through Israeli lines at the Erez check point into Israel. After troops opened fire on rioters at the check point, Palestinian police, Israeli soldiers and Jewish settlers became embroiled in prolonged exchanges of fire, correspondents reported.

'Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani said the new Palestinian Authority would try to search for a solution with Israel to the unemployment problem in Gaza.

"What happened is worrying and Israel must bear part of the responsibility as a former occupying force in the Strip," Kanafani said. "The Palestinian government is trying its best to find a solution to the worker problem. But at the same time, Israel has left Gaza with a destroyed infrastructure and economy and with no alternative but to work in Israel."

A densely-populated area of 800,000 people, Gaza suffers an unemployment rate of more than 50 percent. Israel has limited the number of work permits issued to Palestinians since the Hebron massacre in February of 25 Moslem worshippers by a Jewish settler.

Only about 20,000 Gaza residents currently have permits, about half the labor force in normal times. Meanwhile a group of Palestinian organisation's including 'Arafat's Fatah movement called on Gaza and West Bank residents to join a three-day strike.

Hamas Seen Behind Riots

TA1807043694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Excerpts] The Gaza Strip is still sealed off this morning, following riots at the Erez junction yesterday, in which two Palestinians were killed and three [as heard] Israelis wounded.

Political sources in Jerusalem now say the unrest in Gaza yesterday was coordinated in advance by members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], who sent Palestinians without work permits to the area to start a riot. This report from Dani Gur-Arye:

[Begin Gur-Arye recording] Palestinian workers will not be leaving the Gaza Strip at all today. Israeli authorities intend to keep the Erez junction closed until new procedures are established to make sure yesterday's incident does not recur. According to the Army's initial investigation, members of Hamas planned the unrest in advance, sending to the checkpoint thousands of Palestinians who are barred from entering Israel. The Palestinians prepared petrol bombs ahead of time; dozens were thrown at Israeli soldiers during the riots.

The investigation blames Palestinian policemen stationed 200 meters south of the border crossing for failing to inspect the workers and to weed out those who don't have permits to enter Israel. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian security service confirmed the confrontation was instigated by Hamas and urged PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to discipline the organization over the incident. 'Arafat, however, blamed Israel for the clash, saying Israeli soldiers and settlers fired on Palestinians in order to torpedo the peace process.

The investigation also concludes that once Palestinian policemen failed to control the angry crowd, they turned their guns on Israeli soldiers, critically wounding border policeman Jacques 'Atiya. On the Palestinian side, two people were killed and 75 wounded.

Beyond the incident itself, the Israeli authorities are concerned about the future cooperation between soldiers and Palestinian policemen. It didn't take long since the autonomy agreement was implemented for the worst-case scenario—Israeli soldiers and Palestinian police exchanging fire—to play itself out. Senior officers say Israeli soldiers will now be cautious around armed Palestinians. The situation in joint patrols could be especially sensitive. [end recording] [passage omitted]

The Israeli-Palestinian coordinating committee will meet today at the Erez checkpoint to discuss yesterday's unrest. Palestinians arrested about 30 rioters yesterday, and Israel may ask them to be turned over after they are identified by television footage.

PLO's Qaddumi Demands Action

LD1807073294 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] From Tunisia, the PLO appealed to the cosponsors of the peace process, the United States and Russia, to take urgent measures to prevent a tragic development of the situation in the Gaza Strip following yesterday's bloody confrontations between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

In a statement issued yesterday in Tunisia, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the Political Department, called for the deployment of international forces in the whole of the Palestinian territory, the disarming of the settlers, and the transfer of the Israeli settlements outside the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Qaddumi condemned the collusion between the Israeli army and the Jewish settlers who push Israel to commit massacres with the aim of blowing up the international efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region. The head of the Political Department considered these events a repetition of the Hebron massacre last February.

Fatah Leader on Police Behavior

TA1807073994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Hisham 'Abd-al-Razzaq, one of the leaders of the Fatah in the Gaza Strip, said that the behavior of the Palestinian policemen at the Erez checkpoint yesterday was inappropriate. Al-Razzaq said he was sure that the Palestinians would draw the appropriate conclusions in order to prevent the recurrence of such events in future.

In an interview to Qol Yisra'el, 'Abd-al-Razzaq said that yesterday's riots were motivated by hunger. He nevertheless admitted that opposition groups had exploited the situation in order to inflame passions. 'Abd-al-Razzaq expressed the view that Israel should permit a larger number of Palestinians laborers to work inside the Green Line.

Israel Demands 'Compensation'

TA1807113994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] The Palestinian-Israeli liaison committee has decided to establish a committee to discuss Israel's demand that the Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip pay compensation for the property damaged during yesterday's riots at the Erez checkpoint. The damages run into millions of shekels as 154 Egged buses were torched as well as damages caused to the infrastructure and the adjacent gas station. Israel is also demanding damages on behalf of the Israeli civilians and military personnel wounded by Palestinian police gunfire.

'Arafat Claims Right To Fly Flag in Jerusalem

NC1507113094 Paris AFP in English 1006 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 15 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat stated Friday [15 July] his right to hoist the Palestinian flag over Jerusalem, which Israel has declared its capital.

"It's my right to hoist the Palestinian flag on the walls of Jerusalem, on its mosques and churches after Israeli withdrawal," from east Jerusalem, 'Arafat told reporters. The comment came after his information "minister" Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh arrived in the Gaza Strip on Thursday declaring "the battle is long and will end only when the Palestinian flag flies over Jerusalem".

Israel captured the eastern sector of Jerusalem from Jordanian control in the 1967 Middle East war and annexed it as a united capital.

The PLO demands to share the holy city as a joint capital and 'Arafat has repeatedly stressed that he will soon pray in Jerusalem.

Under the September 13 Declaration of Principles for autonomy, the question of Jerusalem will be negotiated only after two years of self-rule.

'Arafat Against Selling East Jerusalem Land

TA1607182794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat today called on the residents of East Jerusalem not to sell property to Israelis, even if they are in financial distress. Those who are forced to sell land or other property should ask the Palestinian Authority to buy it, and not sell it to Israelis. The PLO head made the remarks in a meeting today with a delegation of East Jerusalem Arabs.

'Arafat charged that Israel is violating agreements by making geographic and demographic changes in Jerusalem and by banning the residents of the territories from entering the city. The PLO head added that Prime Minister Rabin had promised to solve the closure problem, and warned that the coming days will not be days of milk and honey, as he put it.

PLO's Qaddumi Discusses Foreign Aid to Authority

NC1707121694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Tunis, 17 Jul (MENA)—PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi will leave Tunis for Amman tomorrow on a trip that, in addition to Jordan, will also take him to Syria and Egypt. He will hold talks on the developments of the Arab-Israeli peace on the various negotiating tracks and ways to support coordination among the cordon states.

Qaddumi told a MENA correspondent in Tunis that reports on Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's intention to dissolve the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR) are not true. These reports are merely unfounded rumors, he said.

He said he will chair a meeting for PECDAR in Amman Tuesday [19 July] to discuss aid provided by the donor states and the World Bank to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA].

Qaddumi said the PLO established PECDAR to funnel the funds received by the PNA to the self-rule region and the occupied territories to carry out projects.

He said sending aid to the self-rule areas requires lengthy procedures.

Qaddumi said the donor states are no longer obstructing or setting any conditions for providing assistance to the Palestinian people. He explained, however, that the World Bank is trying to apply its system and regulations in its dealing with the PNA, as it does with all the other countries to which it provides aid, loans, or grants.

We are trying to convince the World Bank to accelerate the aid because we urgently need it, especially to cover the initial expenses for building the central PNA administrations and pay the salaries of workers after Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, he said.

It was agreed, he added, that the World Bank will transfer $20 million monthly to the PNA for some period of time to meet these obligations. After that, the Palestinians will depend on themselves through collecting taxes, customs, and other duties.

Qaddumi hoped the Palestinians will succeed in covering this deficit because the donor states will not cover it. He said that because of long and slow procedures, the Palestinians have so far received only little of the money they were promised.

Qaddumi said: We urge the donor states to speed up the provision of assistance so that the Palestinian people can have a way to make a living. He noted that the standard of living has sharply declined, especially in Gaza, where the per capita income has dropped to $740 annually. The aid is needed to inspire confidence in the people and, consequently, preserve the peace process, he said.

Qaddumi stressed that the flow of money and assistance is not going as swiftly as it should be, and is not commensurate with the urgent needs of the Palestinian people. He said the Palestinians are trying to explain this to the World Bank and the donor states. He pointed out that he will make trips within a month to urge more and faster assistance to the Palestinian people.

Qaddumi said that PECDAR has its head office in Jerusalem and that it will have offices in Gaza and other cities. He said Palestinian action is being intensified inside Palestinian territory, especially the Jerusalem area.

He said PECDAR's council of governors will hold its periodic meetings in Tunis, and that in August it will hold a meeting in Jordan so as to be near Palestinian territory.

PFLP-GC Condemns King Husayn's 'Capitulation'

JN1607183894 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Statement issued by the PFLP-GC; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] After successive inroads into Arab ranks spawned by the Camp David line in the region, and since Yasir 'Arafat concluded his treasonous agreement with Rabin, it was anticipated that King Husayn would publicly join the American-Zionist program of normalization.

The Rabin-Husayn encounter scheduled for 25 July—the first public meeting between the king and a Zionist official—will crown numerous secret meetings between the two sides. These sessions have produced many security and political arrangements between the two sides, meeting Zionist conditions, especially in the security realm. The Jordanian regime has formed a sort of forward security fence to protect the Zionist entity. Incidents involving shooting at fedayeen during their crossing from Jordan to Palestine are countless.

Known for his maneuvers, King Husayn, in the matter of his next public meeting with Rabin, is attempting to paint his capitulation as a service for his country and the sacrifice of a brave man for the sake of the homeland. The king is thus seeking to send misleading messages to the Jordanian public in particular, namely that his step is calculated to save Jordan from the plot of the substitute homeland. However, all indications and events show that the Gaza-Jericho program in its political, security, and economic dimensions cannot possibly find scope for prosperity and continuation by spreading into the Jordanian living space, in which the Zionists and their like-minded Palestinian officials see a safe passage for both sides at the expense of the Palestinian cause and our people's rights and identity.

Talk that economic assistance to Jordan will be forthcoming after Husayn and Rabin meet and that the accumulating American debts owed by Jordan will be written off is an insult to our brotherly Jordanian people, who are mindful of the consequences of the Camp David accords in Egypt, where all the promises have gone unfulfilled and the country has incurred huge debts and suffered grave economic woes.

We in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], mindful of how dangerous the implications of King Husayn's step for the course of the Arab-Zionist conflict are, coming in the wake of 'Arafat's step along the treasonous path charted by al-Sadat, see that this capitulation to the American-Zionist dictates only underlines the defeat of these figures, as well as being a reflection of their realities and their mode of thinking, which is enthralled to their selfish and restricted interests. This capitulation can in no way be reflective of the will of our Arab nation.

We in the PFLP-GC, prompted by our conviction in the role of the national, pan-Arab, and Islamic forces, are confident that any international or regional changes, no matter how pressing the circumstances may be, cannot undermine the resolve of the militants and mujahidin. The U.S. administration, irrespective of the power and reach of its new world order, will not be able to mold or formulate the culture and intellect and decisionmaking of our Arab nation, even if it is able today to sponsor the carnival-like ceremonies and sessions of capitulation. The organizers of the carnivals will earn the applause of enemies, but they will lose their place in the memory of the nation and history.

Revolution until the liberation of land and man.

Al-Sa'ih Notes Conditions for Convening PNC

TA1507174494 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has stated that no person has the right to fix the date for convening the PNC except the PNC speaker and the PLO chairman in mutual consultation and within context of the political circumstances and the possibility of convening the PNC with all its members or with an absolute majority. Shaykh al-Sa'ih, who is currently in Amman, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that in the event the PNC is convened either in Gaza or Jericho, he himself would chair the PNC's opening session.

Denies Statement on Session

JN1607152694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Jul 94 p 24

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih [speaker of the Palestine National Council] has denied any contact with Israeli television. He described as baseless the allegation that he responded to a question by an Israeli journalist on his intention to chair a Palestine National Council [PNC] session when it convenes in Gaza and Jericho.

In response to a question by AL-DUSTUR, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said he did not comment on this subject or make any statement to anybody recently. He reiterated his known position on the political situation.

PNC Official on Negotiations, Future Plans

NC1507120494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jul (MENA)—Ambassador Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's permanent representative to the Arab League and Palestine National Council [PNC] secretary, has stated that the negotiations over extending autonomy to the rest of the West Bank, which began in Cairo last week, could be completed in three months.

He explained that extending autonomy to the rest of the West Bank will require the entry of 11,000 additional Palestinian policemen and finding the necessary financing for the Palestinian legislative council elections by the end of 1994 or early in 1995.

In an exclusive interview with MENA, Subayh said that soon there will be negotiations on the return of approximately 800,000 displaced Palestinians who left the West Bank and Gaza in 1967. He explained that President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin recently agreed in Paris to hold these negotiations in the form of a quadripartite committee comprising Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine.

He said this committee will draw up a timetable for these displaced people's return in line with the Oslo Agreement and other Palestinian-Israeli agreements.

Subayh said that the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] is facing huge problems connected with reconstruction involving economic problems, the supply issue, and rebuilding the ruined infrastructure in the areas of health, education, electricity, sewage, and housing. Add to this the need to rehabilitate liberated prisoners and returnees, curb unemployment, and provide aid to the martyrs' families.

The Palestinian official said that the Palestinian Autonomy areas currently need about $1.2 billion, especially as Israel built no roads or other useful installations during the occupation years, particularly in Gaza. He noted that Israel did not even provide maintenance for existing installations.

Subayh said that the PNA hopes that the donor countries and the World Bank will promptly send the aid they have promised so that it can meet the demands of reconstruction in the liberated Palestinian territories.

He noted that the PNA has formed the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, PECDAR, to supervise construction in the autonomous areas. He said that $5 million has been placed at PECDAR's disposal to carry out economic feasibility studies for needed projects in Gaza. Some of this will be set aside for sanitation.

The Palestinian official said that the donor countries are dragging their feet in sending financial aid to the PNA, and this is creating serious problems and frustrating the Palestinian people with the peace process, especially when they cannot find jobs and when they see that the economic process is not working.

Subayh pointed out that, in addition to international aid organizations, Palestinian businessmen will have a growing role in the coming stage as the Israeli occupation is gradually withdrawn from the West Bank towns. Other Arabs, both private and public sectors, will also participate in this endeavor, he said.

He reported that in order to encourage Palestinian and Arab investments, three holding companies have been formed with an overall capital of $250 million to finance projects in the autonomous areas.

He added that the Palestinians are grateful to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and other Arab countries for what they have done for them and hope that official Arab assistance to the newborn PNA will be proportional to its needs and to the challenges it faces vis-a-vis the Israeli economy.

Subayh said: We are now standing at a historical juncture: Either there will be a civilized, advanced Palestinian state that will do honor to the Arab nation or a feeble entity overwhelmed by domestic problems that will never be able to attain statehood and real independence.

Subayh commended President Mubarak for accompanying Palestinian President 'Arafat up to the Palestinian border and considered this gesture as political support for the Palestinian people and their cause.

Subayh stressed that the presence of Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories under PNA control constitutes an impending danger. He said recent events have proved this. He expressed his belief that it is the Israeli politicians who are in an unenviable situation because these settlements cost them a lot.

He explained that in the Gaza Strip alone there are 22 sites for Israeli settlers, some of them inhabited by only 120 settlers. The problem is much more serious in the West Bank, where he said there are about 120,000 Israeli settlers in all the occupied Palestinian territories.

On the role of the various Palestinian organizations in supporting the peace process, Subayh said there are two Palestinian opinions. One opinion supports the peace process and the other opposes. We are proud of this and do not conceal it. On the contrary, we encourage the existence of another opinion.

Referring to the fear that Israel would contain and control the peace process, Subayh said this fear was shattered as soon 'Arafat and the Palestinian police entered the Palestinian homeland. The issue became international with the presence of the large number of pressmen and ambassadors who came to Jericho.

He said the Palestinian public has understood this development. The brothers in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and other organizations have also understood this situation and dealt with positively and in a civilized manner. We did not see objections or forms of rejection of this situation because the Palestinian people have realized the significance of return, which is a great gain on the strategic gain.

Subayh expressed the belief that the future will witness greater cooperation with Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and other factions. He noted that all these factions have agreed not to resort to internecine feuds and have expressed their readiness to participate in the coming elections.

On the transformation of the various Palestinian organizations, including the PLO, into political parties, Subayh said this might happen in the future. However, we have only taken the first step toward peace, he said. We face many problems and responsibilities, including the liberation of the rest of the Palestinian territories. This is the responsibility of the PLO and its institutions. Consequently, the PLO should not be turned into a party before the people are sounded out in a referendum on the form of the Palestinian state.

Regarding the date for convening the PNC, Subayh said this will happen soon, but not before the proper conditions and the proper climate are prepared in the liberated territories.

On the issue of Jerusalem, Subayh said it was officially discussed for the first time in Oslo. Israel agreed that Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem will run for and vote in the elections. He added that Israel agreed that Faysal al-Husayni and Ahmad al-Khalidi will join the talks. It also agreed to form a special committee on Jerusalem in the negotiations, which will come up with suitable ideas and solutions for this issue. He said that despite this, Israel is committing violations and practices not consistent with the Oslo accord, including expanding settlement activity, excavating around the al-Aqsa Mosque, and closing Jerusalem to the Palestinians of the West Bank. He called on Israel to stop these practices. He said despite all this, the Jerusalem issue will be discussed during the coming six months to find the proper solutions for it.

FIDA Denies 'Abd-Rabbuh 'Palestine' Statement

TA1507172094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Union] Executive Bureau member Jamal Zaqqut said today that there is no basis to the statement attributed to Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, FIDA secretary general, about the liberation of all of Palestine. He told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that what was relayed in the news was inaccurate and that what Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said was that the Palestinian people's goal is the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Abu-'Ayyash, 'Abd-Rabbuh Deny 'Forged' Announcements

JN1507171694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1558 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, director of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation [PBC], has stated the following;

The PBC, which broadcasts from Gaza and Jericho to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, would like to emphasize that any announcements that are not broadcast by the PBC over radio and television are not official but represent only those who make them, especially announcements that are disseminated by the local newspapers.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of information, culture, and arts, has said that he has no information on news about jobs at the radio station and that the Palestinian radio's director general is Basim Abu-Sumayyah. Any statements about the radio that do not bear his signature are forged.

Quray' on Palestinian Economic 'Challenges'

JN1507171294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1046 GMT 15 Jul 94

["Exclusive" interview with Ahmad Quray', head of the PLO Economic Department, by Rajih Qaddur and Sa'id Mu'addi in Abu Dis, near Jerusalem, on 14 July; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Ahmad Quray', Abu-al-'Ala', first of all, you are welcome to your hometown, Abu Dis.

[Quray'] Thank you. Thank you very much.

[Correspondent] Abu-al-'Ala': Everyone is happy that you and other members of the Palestinian Authority have arrived. Challenges are enormous and the days of celebrations are behind us. What is the scale of priorities?

[Quray'] In fact, nothing matches our happiness to be back in our homeland and among people. This is the dream whose materialization we have been awaiting. Undoubtedly, we will face serious and major challenges as important as maintaining security, building the security forces, starting the process of economic and social construction that our people are expecting from us, the building of our institutions and agencies, and paying attention to Palestinian human issues. We are aware of the volume and requirements of those upcoming challenges. We hope the authority, which began to gradually undertake its tasks as soon as brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived home, will be able to face up to challenges. We also hope that this authority will, at same time, continue the negotiations on the transitional agreement and what precedes it in preparation for the final status negotiations, which we hope will resolve all the issues of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. This will pave the way for resolving the issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict and help the region—which has suffered wars and disturbances for too long—to experience the peace and stability that it deserves.

[Correspondent] Mr. Abu-al-'Ala', what are the most urgent issues that you will address in the near future?

[Quray'] If you are talking about the economy, I consider the rehabilitation of the infrastructure of the Palestinian national economy to be a priority. Of course, I am talking about the economic and social infrastructure that can pave the way for attracting Palestinian capital abroad and activate and ensure the participation of domestic Palestinian capital. At the same, Arab and foreign capital will be encouraged to contribute to the building of this homeland, which has suffered occupation for too long and which has witnessed the destruction of its infrastructure and institutions.

[Correspondent] Abu-al-'Ala', you know that the makeup of the Palestinian authority has not been completed. Does this indicate a lack of confidence in this authority?

[Quray'] This is untrue. Authority membership has not been rejected by any of our brothers to whom it was proposed. However, some have their own circumstances. There are also some tasks that cannot be considered a priority. In other words, if the tasks to which officials have been appointed are activated, then they can set the wheel in motion. We are now facing a new stage. The slogan of this stage should be: The time has come to build the homeland. This is the slogan that I propose for this stage. Certainly, the time has come for serious work to build the homeland.

[Correspondent] Since we are talking about construction and capital, where do we stand now as regards the issue of the funds that will be received from the donor countries? How much financing has been promised recently?

[Quray'] In fact, this issue with donor countries consists of two parts. The first part, which is the major one, is rarely discussed, while the other, which is minor, is greatly highlighted. The first part concerns the majority of the funds. It covers investment projects in the field of economic and social infrastructure, including health, education, roads, transportation, and other fields. These represent the majority of the funds that will flow from the donor countries, either directly or through the World Bank as a secretariat for the donor states. This is the larger and most important part, which constitutes over 90 percent of the overall $2.4-million in funds that have been promised by the donor states to Palestine. The other part represents a smaller amount of money designed to help the Palestinian administration cover its budget deficit in security or civilian fields. This part is the focus of the clamor and the statements. The Palestinian Authority is now facing a serious dilemma. The donor states are behaving as if they are dealing with any other state with an established and stable taxation system, with known revenues, a known budget, and known expenditure procedures. Assuming so, they believe that the Palestinian authority should be able to transfer funds from one item to another or postpone the implementation of some projects. This would enable the authority to cover deficit in salaries and other items. However, the Palestinian authority has a serious dilemma in this regard because it has no resources to cover the deficit.

[Correspondent] Ahmad Quray', Abu-al-'Ala', You are welcome. Thanks a lot.

[Quray'] Thank you. You are welcome.

Quray' on Commitment to Economic Pact With Jordan

JN1607093594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Jul 94 p 12

[Report by P.V. Vivekanand]

[Excerpt] Amman—Jordanian officials remained sceptical Friday [15 July] over prospects for economic cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) despite efforts by a senior PLO official to reassure the Kingdom that the organisation remained committed to such relations.

Ahmad Quray', the minister of economy in the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in autonomous Gaza and Jericho, made a 48-hour stopover in Amman before heading for Jericho on Thursday. The visit was billed private.

PLO sources said Mr. Quray', better known as Abu-'Ala', had no mandate to hold formal talks here on economic ties with Jordan and as such no official meetings were held.

However, Abu-'Ala' told reporters before he headed for Jericho that he used his presence in the country to contact Jordanian officials personally and over the phone to affirm the PLO's commitment to the Jan. 7 economic agreement it signed with the Kingdom.

Abu-'Ala', one of the architects of the Sept. 13 self-rule agreement between the PLO and Israel, did not identify the Jordanian officials he contacted. There was no formal Jordanian comment.

Abu-'Ala' rejected suggestions that a draft accord the two sides drew up in May was a "new" agreement and insisted that it was part of the Jan. 7 agreement, which gave Jordan a strong say in the economy, banking and monetary affairs of the occupied territories until PLO institutions were set up.

Abu-'Ala' said the May draft was under "serious consideration and will be finalised soon" at a meeting of "the two leaderships." However, he declined to specify any timing for the expected signing.

"There are no differences between the two leaderships or the Jordanian and Palestinian people," Abu-'Ala' said. "Their relations do not depend on any agreements, whether written or otherwise.'

However, the reassurances appeared to have fallen short of their target if only because of the very nature of the PLO leadership of its relations with Jordan.

"It is known that Abu-'Ala' favours strong economic ties with Jordan and would like to see the accord signed," said a senior Jordanian source, "but that does not mean that higher-ups in the PLO share this view."

It was a reference to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who reportedly is very critical of the accord that Abu-'Ala' helped draft in May outlining the modalities of Jordanian-Palestinian economic cooperation.

According to Palestinian sources, Mr. 'Arafat and a few of his close aides, including political department head Faruq Qaddumi, the PLO chairman's deputy in the Palestinian Economic council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), see the accord as limiting their options and giving Jordan what they see as a more-than- essential role in the economy of the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

15 FIDA Party Members Cross Jordan River to Jericho

JN1507172394 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Fifteen senior members of PLO official Yasir 'Abd- Rabbuh's FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Federation Party], turned back by Israel two days ago, crossed the Jordan River to the Palestinian self-rule area of Jericho today. Israel prevented them from entering the Palestinian self-rule area of Jericho from Jordan on Wednesday [13 July] after imposing a ban on entry of Palestinian officials into self-rule areas. It was lifted yesterday after four blacklisted Palestinians who entered Gaza with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat on Tuesday left the area on Israeli orders.

Algeria

Yemeni, Omani Ambassadors Kidnapped Near Algiers

Government Announces Envoys Missing

LD1607162394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Security services said today that two diplomatic representatives, one from Oman and one from Yemen, were discovered to be missing in Khemis El Khechna, east of the capital, on 15 July.

The same services said that the two diplomats went to that area without informing the Algerian authorities; the car they were in was found burned at noon on 15 July in the Ouled Haddadj municipality. The same sources pointed out that an important security body was formed to begin a search immediately after the announcement of the disappearance of the two diplomats.

Further Details on Kidnapping

NC1607163594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1608 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Algiers, 16 Jul (MENA)—The MENA correspondent in Algiers has learned that Hilal Bin-Salim al-Siyabi, the Omani ambassador in Algiers, and Qasim 'Askar Jubran, the Yemeni ambassador in Algiers, were kidnapped last night in one of the Algerian capital's suburbs. No trace of the two has been found so far.

Informed sources said that the two ambassadors were in one car and that some men, whose identity remains unknown and were disguised as security officers and wore police uniforms, stopped the car and kidnapped them and the driver and took them to an unknown destination. The Algerian security bodies today found the burned car of the two ambassadors without any trace of the men themselves.

This incident is the first of its kind against Arab ambassadors in a series of violent acts that Algeria has been experiencing for two years. Two years ago some French nationals who worked in the French Consulate were kidnapped and released after negotiations with the kidnappers, who belonged to the armed Islamic groups.

These groups warned foreigners once again to either leave Algeria or be killed. The assassinations of foreigners of various nationalities started last September; 51 foreigners have been killed since then.

The Algerian authorities have maintained their silence regarding the kidnapping of the Omani and Yemeni ambassadors and have refused to comment on the incident. Officials at the two embassies have also refused to confirm or deny the report. However, the two ambassadors are neither at home nor in their offices.

Sanaa Confirms Kidnapping

NC1607184894 Paris AFP in English 1811 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Algiers, July 16 (AFP)—The ambassadors of Yemen and Oman were kidnapped near here in the first such incident since the outbreak of Muslim fundamentalist violence in early 1992, a Yemeni official and Arab diplomats said here Saturday [16 July].

Algerian security services said the two diplomats went missing Friday.

A vehicle in which the pair had been travelling Friday was found torched Saturday near the spot in the Khemis El Kechna area where they went missing, the security services said.

Arab diplomatic sources identified the two men as Hilal Bin-Salim al-Siyabi and Yemeni Qasim 'Askar Jubran.

In Sanaa a government official said the ambassador had been "kidnapped."

The official, who asked not to be named, confirmed the Algerian security services' report that the ambassador was missing but would not elaborate on reasons for an abduction.

He said the ambassador to Algiers was a "southerner," in a reference to south Yemen which fought a two-month civil war against northern troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Yemeni government sources said Jubran had been dismissed by Sanaa after backing the southern uprising but this was not confirmed in Algiers.

The war, which broke out on May 4, ended when northern forces captured the southern stronghold of Aden last week.

Omani authorities have not yet commented on the disappearance of their envoy.

No one had claimed responsibility for the disappearance of the two envoys by late Saturday afternoon.

Several diplomats and consular agents have been kidnapped or killed since September but al-Siyabi and Jubran are the first ambassadors to be abducted. [passage omitted]

Other Arab ambassadors were due to hold an emergency meeting Saturday to discuss their response to the incident, the diplomatic sources said.

Security forces said an operation to track down the men had been launched.

They added that the two ambassadors had not informed Algerian authorities of their intention to go to Khemis El Kechna, an area reputed to be a fundamentalist stronghold and where several militant attacks and security force searches have taken place in the last two years.

The Omani ambassador was appointed to Algiers in July 1992, while his Yemeni colleague has headed his country's diplomatic mission here since February 1987. [passage omitted]

Arab Envoys Denounce Incident

NC1707052694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Algiers, 17 Jul [date as received] (MENA)—MENA's correspondent in Algiers has learned that Yemeni Ambassador Qasim 'Askar Jubran, who was kidnapped in Algiers yesterday with the Omani ambassador, had received instructions from the Yemeni Government when clashes first broke out in Yemen. Because he is from the south, the ambassador was instructed to freeze his work, stop diplomatic activity, and he was told to regard the charge d'affaires as Yemen's diplomatic representative in Algeria, because he is from the north. MENA's correspondent also learned that Ambassador Jubran reduced his activity recently after he received these instructions from Sanaa.

Observers here noticed that the charge d'affaires used to receive President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's envoys visiting Algeria and to accompany them in their meetings with officials during the Yemeni crisis, while Ambassador Jubran used to accompany 'Ali Salim al-Bid's envoys when they visited Algeria.

Meanwhile, Arab ambassadors in Algiers held a meeting at the home of Syrian Ambassador 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Dahhak [title and name as received] in the Algerian capital to discuss the abduction of the Omani and Yemeni ambassadors in Algeria and ways to preserve their lives and secure their safe return.

Egypt's Ambassador in Algeria Ibrahim Yusri said the conferees discussed all aspects of the situation and reviewed the Algerian authorities' efforts to secure the two abducted ambassadors' safe return. The Egyptian ambassador added that the Algerian security authorities are doing their best to reveal the mystery of the incident and return the two ambassadors, since no one has so far claimed responsibility for their abduction.

The Arab ambassadors appealed to Algerian officials to act quickly to save the two ambassadors' lives and secure their return.

The abduction of the Omani and Yemeni ambassadors in Algeria yesterday has prompted various reactions from Arab, foreign, and diplomatic circles in Algeria. Various embassies have begun to strengthen their own security protection as well as the protection of ambassadors' residences, especially since this is the first such incident to which Arab ambassadors have been subjected so far.

The Arab ambassadors denounced the incident as a hostile act targeting two Arab diplomats as they performed their mission in Algeria.

2 Others Missing With Envoys

NC1707151694 Paris AFP in English 1437 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Algiers, July 16 (AFP)—Two Arab ambassadors and two other foreigners were missing Sunday [17 July] more than 48 hours after apparently being kidnapped in an Islamic stronghold east of the capital, press reports and diplomatic sources said.

The ambassadors from Yemen and Oman went missing in the Khemis El Kechna area Friday lunchtime along with a member of the politburo of the Aden-based Yemeni Socialist Party and the Omani's Moroccan driver, the Arab diplomatic sources said.

Earlier, officials in Algiers and Sanaa said Oman's Hilal Bin-Salim al-Siyabi and Yemen's ambassador 'Askar 'Ali Husayn [name as received] had been "kidnapped" Friday.

Oman's foreign ministry confirmed late Saturday that its ambassador had disappeared.

The sources named the missing southern Yemeni politician as Muhammad Qasim al-Sur—adding fuel to reports that the still unclaimed abduction was linked via Moslem fundamentalist unrest to Yemen's recent civil war, in which Sanaa defeated the forces of the separatist south.

Algeria has been plagued by fundamentalist violence since early 1992.

The insurgency has targeted intellectuals and foreigners, including diplomats and consular agents, though up to now no actual ambassadors.

The independent daily al-Watan speculated Sunday that the abduction might be linked to the Yemen war, charging that the Yemeni ambassador had been a "separatist" and that Oman had supported secessionists in Aden before its fall earlier this month.

The paper said Sanaa maintained close ties with Algerian Islamic militants though a Yemeni Islamic spiritual leader, Imam Zindani, who has made frequent visits to Algeria.

The diplomatic sources said Sunday that al-Sur had been a guest of the ambassador, who Sanaa earlier said had been relieved of his duties since Aden fell.

The vehicle in which all four men had been travelling Friday was found torched Saturday near the spot where they went missing, the Algerian security services said.

The sources added that the car had belonged to the Omani ambassador and carried diplomatic number plates.

The men had been en route to a restaurant near Khemis El Kechna where they often lunched when the incident occurred, the sources said.

The Oman foreign ministry in Muscat earlier indicated al-Siyabi had been accompanied by more than one person, adding that the Algerian government had expressed "great concern" for the safety of the ambassador and would "spare no effort" in finding him.

The disappearance of the four men follows a spate of killings of foreigners that raised fears that Moslem militants were stepping up their campaign of violence against the secular military-backed government.

The violence claimed the lives of five more Algerians this week, after 14 foreigners were killed in just over a week, including seven Italian sailors whose throats were slit while sleeping on their cargo ship.

Some 51 foreigners have been killed Algeria since September, when hardline militants warned all expatriates to leave the country or face the consequences.

Arab Envoys, Official Discuss Incident

LD1707180594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Mohamed Hannache, the foreign affairs ministry secretary general, today received a delegation representing the Arab diplomatic corps accredited to Algeria, headed by Syrian Ambassador 'Abd al-Jabbar al-Dahhak [title and name as heard] who was accompanied by the ambassadors of Iraq, State of Qatar, and the charge d'affairs of the Yemen embassy at their request.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry's statement pointed out that Mohamed Hannache briefed the ambassadors on the efforts that Algeria was exerting to find the Omani and Yemeni ambassadors, and those who were with them, since it learned of their disappearance, emphasizing the Algerian authorities' special interest in this issues.

Omani Envoy Said 'Safe, Well'

NC1707200494 Paris AFP in English 1921 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Muscat, July 17 (AFP)—The Omani ambassador to Algeria apparently kidnapped for more than 48 hours was "safe and well," the official agency ONA said here Sunday [17 July] quoting Algerian security forces.

But in its report from Algiers it did not specify whether Hilal Bin-Salim al-Siyabi had been released or was still being held.

Officials in Algiers and Sanaa said al-Siyabi and Yemen's ambassador 'Askar 'Ali Husayn [name as received] had been "kidnapped" Friday in the Islamic stronghold of Khemis El Kechna east of the Algerian capital.

Arab diplomatic sources said Husayn, a southerner, had been kidnapped with a member of the Yemen Socialist Party politburo Muhammad Qasim al-Sur and the Omani's Moroccan driver. [passage omitted]

FIS Blames 'Putschists' for Murder of Foreigners

LD1507153294 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] The bodies of the two Serbs who were killed in an attack in Algiers on Monday [11 July] were repatriated to Belgrade yesterday. Fourteen foreigners and four Algerians have been killed in the last few days in attacks alleged to have been carried out by fundamentalists. Noel Villiers asked the chairman of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] parliamentary delegation abroad whether the FIS was responsible for these violent political attacks in Algeria. This is the answer of Anour Haddam:

[Begin recording] [Haddam] Of course not, but at the same time we are outraged by the fact that the press makes so much fuss about such incidents, which we condemn. Why doesn't the international press say anything about what is happening in Algeria, such as the massacre of Algerian civilians by the security forces? We ask for international observers to go to Algeria to observe and report on what is happening. We, the FIS parliamentary delegation, have always said that we oppose and condemn any attack against those who do not take part, directly or indirectly, in the actions of the security forces, be they Algerians, men or women, or foreigners.

[Villiers] So who is responsible for the murder of foreigners, like the Russians, the French, or the Italians who were found slaughtered?

[Haddam] Everything that is happening in Algeria now is the responsibility of the putschists, those who stopped the electoral process. In the view of the state of security in the country, we advised foreign companies to avoid undertaking economic activities outside the humanitarian field. We specially appeal to France, which is deploying huge economic, financial and political efforts in Algeria because neither Algeria nor the Algerian people are the beneficiaries of this aid. The main beneficiary is the military dictatorship. [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak, al-Asad Discuss Peace Talks Via Phone

NC1607125894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad at noon today. During the telephone conversation, the two presidents exchanged views on the developments in the Arab tracks of the peace process and the results of the ongoing contacts among parties in this regard.

Foreign Minister Musa Comments on Regional Issues

Discusses Peace Talks, Yemen, Rwanda

NC1607142994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has expressed Egypt's hope that progress will be achieved in the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track. In a statement made today, the foreign minister said that Egypt has declared more than once that this track is basic, important, and dominant in the peace process. He pointed out that without progress on this track, it will not be possible to resolve the problem as a whole and achieve comprehensive peace.

Commenting on Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres's statement regarding Syrian security presence in the Golan, Musa said that the recognition of Syria's sovereignty over the Golan is considered an important step on the right path by Israel.

Regarding the date of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the area, Musa said that the date has not been set yet.

On the situation in Yemen, the foreign minister said that he received a telephone call today from his Yemeni counterpart, Muhammad Salim Basindwah. He will visit Egypt to explain the current developments in his country.

Musa expressed his deep anxiety about the developments in Rwanda. He said that the situation in Rwanda must be followed closely and that Egypt is doing this through its contacts with the OAU and its secretary general and with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali and the UN Security Council. He said what makes the situation extremely serious is the continued exodus of Rwandan refugees.

He said it is important that the cease-fire in Rwanda should remain in force, noting the efforts being made to form a national unity government there. He said that Egypt is following up on these efforts out of its interest in Rwanda as an African state and as part of its role in the OAU.

Commenting on reports about Egyptian provocations in Hala'ib, the foreign minister said: There are no provocations in this region. The reports are part of a campaign. We do not attach any great importance to such reports and accusations because they are unjustified.

Musa added: I still describe all this as nonsense.

On 'Regret' Over Gaza Incidents

NC1707132694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—Egypt has expressed its regret and apprehension over today's events in Gaza, in which scores of Palestinians were injured. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said Egypt reaffirms its full confidence in the ability of the Palestinian administration and the Palestinian police to face all challenges. He said Egypt warns against any attempt to cast doubt on the Palestinian administration's ability in this regard and emphasizes the importance of cooperation between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority.

Musa said Egypt demands that Israel in particular take measures to prevent a repetition of such incidents. He warned that a repetition of such incidents might adversely affect the peace process in the Middle East. He demanded that the measures taken focus on avoiding provocation and enabling the Palestinian people in Gaza, Jericho, and the occupied territories to carry out their work and lead a normal life in a peaceful atmosphere.

Supports Jordan-Israel Summit

NC1707153994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa affirmed today in a comment he made about the upcoming Jordanian-Israeli summit that all steps leading to peace, as it started in Madrid and on the basis of land for peace, are sound steps in the right direction.

He added that all the developments on the various negotiating tracks, in addition to the developments expected on the Syrian-Israeli track, could constitute a strong push forward in the direction of a comprehensive peace in the region.

Al-Baz on Rwanda, Palestinians, Peace Talks

NC1607171994 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 13 Jul 94 p 3

[Report by William Wisa in Paris]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with AL-AKHBAR, Dr. Usamah al-Baz, foreign ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has announced that the Egyptian observers unit, due to participate in monitoring the situation in Rwanda, will arrive in Paris today en route to Rwanda to do its share in France's humanitarian mission. He said: As an African state that chaired the OAU presidency until very recently, we feel duty bound to play our role for our African brothers.

Commenting on France's promises made during the president's [Mubarak] talks to support the [Palestinian] self-rule, al-Baz said France's assistance will be at the fore of international aid and will be effective. He added: We are interested in seeing that this experiment will succeed so that the Palestinian authority will extend to the rest of the West Bank and the peace process will assume another dimension.

On Egypt's role in narrowing the gap between Syria and Israel, he said that Egypt will continue its role to remove the gap. He added that talks are still going on between those countries bilaterally on the bases of Resolution 242 and the Madrid formula. He added: We have advised the Israelis on several points. Most importantly, it is not right to play down the importance of movement on the Syrian track and progress on other tracks should not be an alternative.

He noted that it is unacceptable for Israel to resolve its disputes with the Palestinian and Jordanian people and leave its dispute with Syria pending on the pretext that it cannot move on all tracks simultaneously.

He said: We have told Israel that it is in their political interest to deal with Syria on legal bases and not to use pressure or attempt to handle each side separately in the peace negotiations.

Five Sentenced To Death for Assassination Attempt

NC1607121094 Paris AFP in English 1120 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Report by Mae Galwash]

[Text] Cairo, July 16 (AFP)—A military court Saturday [16 July] sentenced five Islamic militants to death who were accused of plotting to kill Egyptian Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi.

The five were among 17 militants on trial at the Cairo higher military court for a bomb attack in the Egyptian capital last August, which wounded al-Alfi in the arm and killed three passers- by.

The court also sentenced six defendants to five years of hard labour and four to three years.

Two defendants were acquitted.

Military courts have now handed down 55 death sentences since 1992, 39 of which were carried out.

Nine of the defendants were charged with being members of Tala'i' al-Fath (Vanguard of Conquest), the military wing of the fundamentalist group al-Jihad (Holy War).

Lesser charges included possession and trading in illegal weapons, and forging identity papers.

The trial, which opened June 5, was held amid tight security in the al-Jabal al-Ahmar military base on the edge of a Cairo suburb.

Soldiers set up roadblocks at the base's entrance, and barred relatives crowding at the gate, allowing in only one for each defendant.

The foreign press was banned from the court.

The verdict was announced about 30 minutes after the session opened.

The defendants later emerged from the base in a military truck, waving to their relatives through tiny windows and chanting anti- government slogans.

There was a heavy military escort.

Relatives chased after the convoy, shouting out the mens' names. Some mothers threw themselves on the ground in grief.

"Our men are with God, and the government is against those who are with God," said Huwayda, wife of Usamah Muhammad Rashad, who was one of those sentenced to death.

Rashad and another accused were only arrested last week.

The five facing death were also accused of murdering a dissident member of their group and the main prosecution witness in the trial of militants convicted of trying to kill Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi in November.

Sidqi escaped the attack unharmed, but a 15-year-old girl died.

The prosecution had also tried to charge the defendants with plotting to assassinate UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali during an African summit in Cairo in June 1993, but failed to make the accusation stick.

The defendants all pleaded not guilty to the charges, saying their confessions were extracted under torture.

Court medical reports confirmed that at least one defendant, Mas'ud al-'Arif Talib, was tortured, a source in the Egyptian Human Rights Organization said.

In October 1992 President Husni Mubarak decided to transfer all trials of Islamic militants to military courts to ensure speedy verdicts and ensure that penalties were carried out.

The militants launched a violent campaign two years ago to oust Mubarak's secular government. Nearly 400 people have died in the violence.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1030 GMT on 16 July adds the following:

["The defendants sentenced to death by the Higher Military Court are: Muhammad Rashad 'Abd-al-Hamid Hijazi, 32 years; Muhammad 'Abd- al-'Alim Muhamad Khalifah, 32 years; Mas'ud al-'Arif Ibrahim, 37 years; Tariq 'Abd-al-Samad Muhammad, 27 years; and Usamah Muhammad Rashad. The two defendants acquitted by the court are Muhammad Huzayin Hasan Isma'il, 27 years, and Hasan 'Uways Wahbah, 32 years. The defendants sentenced to a five-year prison term are: Hisham Na'im al-Husayni, 32 years; [names indistinct] Salim Ahmad Salim, 49 years; and 'Ali 'Abd-al-Hadi Salim, 35 years."]

Commentary on Israel, Syria, Peace Process

NC1707144094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Commentary by Muhammad al-Sa'id Fa'iq: "Comprehensive Peace Requires Courageous Decisionmaking"]

[Text] Most Middle Eastern capitals are currently buzzing with talk about the expected peace in the region. Most political and media departments in the Middle East are exchanging statements and reports about the comprehensive and permanent peace process. All these statements revolve around the framework of discussing the future of peace, how to establish it, and each party's ideas regarding the best and shortest way to do so.

If U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region and the talks he will hold in the capitals of the countries concerned with the future of peace is what has whet the appetite of many parties to talk about it, each from his own perspective, then the general view regarding the actual situation in the region confirms clearly that peace is an objective all the people of this region aspire to. The option of a peace based on justice, the realistic perspective of the actual situation, and future demands will impose itself sooner or later on the decision-making sides in the region, particularly after the masses have comprehended the blessing of peace and the fact that they have to play an effective role in mobilizing efforts to end decades of bitterness and grudges and pave the way for peace, security, and stability.

Reports coming from Washington just at the start of the U.S. secretary of state's tour of some Middle Eastern capitals speak about a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel to be signed in Washington next week under Clinton's sponsorship. All political events throughout the past weeks have been preparing for the declaration of this step, which is another historic step toward establishing a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. This declaration comes after the Jordanian and Israeli sides agreed to resolve all pending issues between them. At the same time, a kind of political flirtation has started between Tel Aviv and Damascus, although the degree of this flirtation rises and falls in accordance with the demands of daily political action. Two days ago, Israel showed initiative toward Damascus. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres publicly declared Syria's sovereignty over the Golan Heights. The Israeli official announced his country's readiness to withdraw to the cease-fire line in return for peace—a peace that is based on internationally recognized borders and that takes into consideration Israel's security demands. This is a stand which to a large extent coincides with the Syrian demands. These demands maintain that progress in the peace process on the Syrian-Israeli track can only happen when Israel declares Syria's sovereignty over the Golan Heights and cancels the Israeli annexation decision of 1981, while being committed to full withdrawal from the Heights. These are steps which, according to Syrian thinking, put the horse in front of the cart so that the peace cart can naturally move forward and proceed toward its objective. It can pass through the station of security arrangements first and then peace relations.

We believe that the atmosphere in the Middle East is currently set for positive progress toward realizing a just and comprehensive peace. If the progress made in the course of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations has paved the way for other progress in the Jordanian-Israeli track, then the atmosphere of doubt and the absence of trust that continues to hamper the course of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations will diminish to make way for the desired progress in this track. The people who have had a taste of peace and experienced stability and social prosperity after having suffered for a long time from the fires of war and the sickness of extremism and grudges will not allow anyone to destroy their hopes for a comprehensive and just peace. Those people will work as hard as they can to push their governments and rally round the decision-makers in their country to make the sound decision that requires the courage of men to establish the peace of the brave.

Conflict Between Government, 'Terrorists' Continues

'Terrorist Leader,' 15 Aides Arrested

NC1507210494 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 13 Jul 94 p 7

[Report by Buthaynah Zakariya from Bani Suwayf]

[Text] Bani Suwayf Detective Agency has arrested Mukhtar Ahmad Hamzah, 34, holder of a bachelor's degree in business, leader of the terrorist groups in Ihnasiyah, as he hid inside his jewelry shop in the city.

He is one of the suspects wanted in connection with throwing explosive charges at a police car in which Captain Muhammad Sa'id Mustafa, head of the unit in charge of implementing judicial orders in Ihnasiyah, was riding.

The suspect made a detailed confession before head of the Ihnasiyah Prosecution 'Imad Sami and director of Prosecution Rif'at Ibrahim that he had devised a terrorist plan to assassinate policemen and disseminate anti-regime leaflets.

Police have arrested 15 of his terrorist aides. The suspect has given the names of 25 others, who are now being pursued.

The prosecution under the supervision of Counselor Naji 'Abd-al- 'Adhim, attorney general of the Bani Suwayf Prosecution Office, ordered the terrorist's detention for 15 days pending investigation.

Policeman Killed by 'Terrorist'

NC1707081494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—A policeman was martyred in al-Minya last night when released terrorist Hasan Taha 'Abd-al-Wahhab shot him.

An official security source at the Interior Ministry said that while four secret policemen of the State Security Intelligence were on a patrol to inspect security in al-Minya city last night, they saw the released terrorist riding on a motorbike near al-Mansurah Bridge. They asked him to stop, and he pretended to comply. But he immediately pulled a locally made pistol and shot and killed Sergeant Rubay'i Muhammad.

The source said the force chased after the terrorist and fired several shots at him, but missed. The force stopped firing so as not to hurt passers-by. Officials of al-Minya Security Directorate and investigation and state security agencies went to the scene, and the criminal laboratory and various investigation agencies are at work to track down the terrorist.

'Terrorist' Killed, 1 Captured in Asyut

NC1807053894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Asyut, 17 Jul (MENA)—A terrorist was killed and another arrested this evening as they tried to attack a police officer in Asyut Governorate.

The two terrorists exchanged fire with Major Salah 'Isa of the Asyut electricity police in the village of Bani Murr. The officer managed, with the help of residents, to kill one of them and capture the other.

It should be recalled that Captain 'Isa Karam 'Isa, an officer in the Asyut security force and the brother of Maj. Salah 'Isa, was killed last December by terrorists.

Yemen

Al-Jifri Says al-Bid 'Sick,' Not Retired

MM1507132594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jul 94 pp1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Al-Jifri Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Al-Bid Is Sick, He Has Not Retired From Politics"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, vice president of Democratic Yemen and leader of the Sons of Yemen League, has denied that "President 'Ali Salim al-Bid has decided to give up political action." He said that "what has been reported is unfounded."

In a telephone interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, between London and Jiddah, al-Jifri added that "al-Bid is suffering from low blood pressure as a result of extreme exhaustion during the war, and he needs some rest and treatment." He said: "The president has given us authorization and has asked me to manage affairs. I know he has not contemplated retirement because he would have told me if he had."

Al-Jifri also confirmed that contacts are currently under way to arrange a meeting between members of the northern and southern leaderships in Paris on 28 July with the participation of Lakhdar Brahimi, enovy of the UN secretary general. He added: "We had agreed in the beginning that we would be represented by Prime minister Haydar al-'Attas and Foreign Minister brother 'Abdallah al-Asnaj and that they would meet with northern Planning and Development Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani and 'Abdallah al-Ashtal, Sanaa's permanent representative at the United Nations. But then they suggested adding the name of 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Ansi, deputy prime minister and secretary general of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, so we requested the addition of brother Muhsin Muhammad Bin-Farid, deputy prime minister and secretary general of the [Sons of Yemen] League, to our delegation." He added: "I believe that is a reasonable proposal no sensible person would reject, but we have not heard anything from them yet." Al-Jifri also said that these negotiations will be held in the context of Security Council resolutions 924 and 931. Asked if the federation option will be discussed in Paris, he replied that "the negotiations will be without any prior conditions. We would discuss anything they come up with and would not refuse to discuss anything."

The southern vice president defined his command's plan of action on two lines:

1. "Continuation of political action and negotiations in accordance with the two Security Council resolutions."

2. "Managing the affairs of our groups at home and abroad to everyone's satisfaction. We will leave nobody without aid."

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has held telephone contacts with 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri; Sulayman Nasir Mas'ud, member of the southern Presidential Council; and Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad, interior minister; in an attempt to hold a dialogue with them. According to an informed source, during these contacts 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih spoke in his normal voice for some time, having in the beginning changed his voice which raised questions about the possibility of deception.

At the end of his interview, al-Jifri said: "We ask the world, which is witnessing the looting and the all-out destruction of the state institutions, to realize that all this is not being done for the sake of unity. It is full destruction indicating that it is a question not of safeguarding unity but of occupation." He added: "They left us nothing. They plundered everything in the name of unity, and that is what we expected."

Southern Yemen 'Speaker' Proposes New Initiative

MM1507101894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Jul 94 p3

[Interview with Anis Hasan Yahya, member of the YSP Political Bureau and speaker of south Yemen's "National Assembly," by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given—first three paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained details of a new south Yemeni initiative which could form a basis for dialogue between north and south, in the context of the unity state, on all Yemeni national issues.

The most important points in the initiative, proposed by Anis Hasan Yahya, member of the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and speaker of the National Assembly of the southern state declared during the war, are forming a special government for the southern region, rescinding the declaration of the state of Democratic Yemen, and opening dialogue to all political forces in Yemen.

In Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT interviewed Anis Hasan Yahya, author of the initiative, who is there now. He talked about it in detail and discussed the latest developments pertaining to the situation in Yemen. Following is the text of the interview:

[Abu-Husayn] What next, now that the military battle has been settled in favor of the north?

[Yahya] First of all, I introduced that initiative after we lost the military battle, but I believe that the political battle is still in its beginning. That is why I concluded that it should be settled to spare Yemen more destruction and end the homeland's war plight. I believe that it is necessary to forget the declaration of the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] because, in my view, it was merely an emergency solution aimed at building a modern state in any part of Yemen. Now that we have failed to do that, just as we failed to achieve unity, it is imperative that we look for a new formula within the framework of the unity state.

Today we call for a formula between Aden and Sanaa that would safeguard the interests of the Yemeni people as a whole, namely the formation of a government in the south with wide powers and a voice that would be heard in Arab, regional, and international organizations. That does not mean that we would have a foreign minister but rather a representative of the southern region abroad. That model was applied to the Ukraine in the Soviet Union. The Ukraine enjoyed that kind of status. That does not have to be absolute, that is, it does not have to go on forever but just for a period of time.

[Abu-Husayn] That initiative means that you lean toward partition.

[Yahya] I do not propose partition of Yemeni territory. I advocate a federal formula, meaning that there should be administrative authorities in the Yemeni regions with wide powers but within the context of a federal state, and that the south should be a region on its own [autonomous] for special considerations.

[Abu-Husayn] What considerations?

[Yahya] It is not what you think nor is it anything like the claim that the southern citizens feel that they are third-class citizens. That feeling also exists in Sanaa. I believe that such a federal division would provide an opportunity for fair development in the various regions, including the south, and for wider participation in deciding the affairs of government. I believe that, in essence, federalism means more democracy. In that context, I believe that the south should have its own government.

[Abu-Husayn] But such a solution would take a long time. Are there any practical solutions acceptable to Sanaa now?

[Yahya] I agree with you that practical implementation would take some time if Sanaa accepted the idea of administrative partition. It could take up to five years, after which we believe it would be important to submit this federal plan to the people and have a referendum because any solution in isolation from the people would be liable to suffer a setback and collapse, as in the past.

[Abu-Husayn] Do you expect Sanaa to accept this proposal?

[Yahya] We are offering this initiative for discussion. Anyone with other real ideas should come forward. I am confident that the response at the Yemeni, Arab, and international levels would be vast.

[Abu-Husayn] Do you believe that Arab and international participation is required in order to reconcile the current political positions in Yemen in line with the initiative you have proposed?

[Yahya] The political dialogue should have two dimensions: A southern-southern dimension and a southern-northern dimension. The dialogue would succeed if representatives of the south came from elected leaderships.

Elections were held in 1993 on a democratic basis and we have a right to offer ourselves as representatives of the south. Then comes the part of foreign assistance to reconcile the views.

[Abu-Husayn] But Sanaa has decided to form a new government early next week. What if that occurs in the absence of southern leaders?

[Yahya] Sanaa says that it will grant a general amnesty to the 16 figures named in the attorney general's statement. How will it be able to hold a national dialogue before having a dialogue with them? I believe that it is now necessary to have a dialogue that would include all the political and partisan figures before the formation of any new government in Sanaa, on the basis of the Pledge and Accord Document and my initiative. The document did not mention the south as a region on its own nor a federal plan in the framework of Yemeni unity. I also fully reject what has been rumored about formation of a south Yemeni government in exile. As a unionist, I am well aware of the difficulties which have faced unity before and after the war. Furthermore, the secession only led to more destruction and attrition. I believe that the call for a government in exile is not based on realistic foundations. It is a serious persuit of private illusions. The war results have confirmed in practice that there is no need to expose the country to more risks.

[Abu-Husayn] So you admit that the declaration of the state of Democratic Yemen was a mistake.

[Yahya] The declaration of the state was at the time based on the importance of having a modern state founded on a new concept of institutions, but the war produced different results. For example, if today I talk about the DRY parliament, of which I had the honor of being speaker, that would at the present time mean the failure of any dialogue in advance, because it would confirm that I would be forming resistance squads which would mean continuation of the war and bloodshed.

I personally view the future with great anxiety, particularly as future generations will bear the burden of the consequences of this war.

Furthermore, we believe that the continuation of the war and the resistance on our part would mean lack of stability and security in the Arab region. That is why everyone should first of all remedy the consequences of the war through dialogue and cancellation of the so-called parliament of the Democratic Republic and the republic itself, and creation of a special southern region.

I also call on Sanaa to honor its current call for national reconciliation, although I doubt its sincerity because if it wanted dialogue, why did it ignite the war? That is the question, but, at any rate, national reconciliation is necessary for the initiation of a dialogue on the future of the homeland, placing the higher interests above all other considerations.

[Abu-Husayn] Why was Aden defeated militarily? Do you expect the same result at the political level?

[Yahya] It must be made clear that we were against the war and still believe that it was not in the interest of the Yemeni people. So, our position was one of only self-defense. As to how Aden was defeated and why it fell, that never occurred to anyone. The information I used to receive from military sources indicated emphatically that it was impossible that Aden would fall. Despite the heavy shelling it was subjected to every day, we were confident that it would not fall. I cannot give reasons why it happened because I was abroad on a mission. As parliament speaker, I was on a tour of Arab and European states and so was Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas. Most of the leaders were in Aden and al-Mukalla but I hold President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih responsible for the war because he rejected the appeals of the brothers and the will of the international community, ignored Security Council Resolutions 924 and 931, and did not stop until Aden fell.

That leaves dialogue and whatever that requires, in the interest of an appropriate political settlement to preserve Yemen's unity and links and ensure the prerequisites for building a modern state.

North, South To Discuss Reconciliation in Paris

NC1707074694 Paris AFP in English 0223 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, July 17 (AFP)—Senior officials from northern and southern Yemen are to meet in Paris before the end of the month to discuss reconciliation in the wake of the destructive civil war, a Sanaa government source said Saturday [16 July].

Planning minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, a northerner, and former prime minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, who joined the southern secession attempt led by former vice-president 'Ali Salim al-Bid, would meet under the auspices of UN mediator Lakhdar Brahimi, the source said.

They would discuss "the ways and means to begin a national dialogue, in line with resolutions of the UN Security Council on Yemen" passed during the two-month civil war which ended with the fall of Aden to northern forces on July 7.

The source said the two would be joined by Yemen's UN ambassador 'Abdallah al-Ashtal and 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, "foreign minister" of the "Democratic Republic of Yemen" declared at the end of May by al-Bid but unrecognised by any state.

Al-'Attas, who was also named "prime minister" by al-Bid, is officially under threat of an arrest warrant issued by Sanaa against 16 southern leaders at the height of the conflict.

But he met with al-Iryani several times at UN headquarters in the last days of the war.

Work To Restore Normal Political Life Continues

MM1507134994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Sulayman Nimr and Iqbal 'Abdallah: "Salih Insists on Socialist Party Participation Despite Reservations of Reform Grouping Hard-Liners"]

[Excerpts] Sanaa, Aden—The Yemeni Government was busy yesterday continuing the efforts to restore normality in Aden, where all ministers, including political ministers, are present. They include Planning and Development Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani and Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile contacts are continuing between Socialist Party leaders in Aden and Sanaa and those outside the country. A leading Socialist Party source in Sanaa has said that great difficulties are facing the contacts among party leaders in Sanaa and party leaders in Aden because of the disruption in telephone communications with Aden. But the source expects some party leaders to come to Sanaa from Aden after assuring them about conditions in the capital. The source disclosed that the Socialist Party leadership in Sanaa has sent an envoy to make contact with these leaders, who might return to Sanaa to decide the party's future and hold a Central Committee meeting. The source pointed out that some of the party's leaders inside the country had contacted President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to reassure themselves about the possibility of the return of some leaders from abroad. The source said that the Yemeni president spoke positively about some of the party's leaders, describing them as unionist and against the secession decision. The source said that this will encourage some of the party's leaders, like Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, Jarallah 'Umar, Ahmad al-Salami, and others, to return. However, the source said that "the matter requires that the right timing be chosen for their return."

AL-HAYAH has learned that parliament Deputy Speaker Salih 'Abbad (Muqbil), member of the Socialist Party Political Bureau, has participated in the Yemeni House of Representatives speakership meeting for the first time since the war broke out.

Meanwhile an authoritative source in Sanaa has said that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih wants to restore political life to Yemen with the participation of all political forces in Yemen, first and foremost the Socialist Party. And that talk of reservations voiced by some Yemeni Reform Grouping leaders about the Socialist Party's return will not affect the president's orientation or the Yemeni political leadership's orientation or the president's stress on the need to turn the page of the past with its positive and negative aspects and for everyone to cooperate to rebuild what the war destroyed. The authoritative Yemeni source pointed out that the Yemeni president focused on the political dialogue issue in the framework of political pluralism and democracy during his meetings with most political leaders from various parties, as a means to build a sound political life in the country. [passage omitted]

Aden Said Closed Off, Under Curfew Until 27 Jul

NC1607190594 Paris AFP in English 1825 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, July 16 (AFP)—The Yemeni government has decided to close off the southern city of Aden until July 27 and impose a curfew from Saturday night to try to restore order in the war-ravaged city.

The carrying of weapons is also to be banned in the city, where unidentified armed gangs have taken part in an orgy of looting since the city fell to northern troops nine days ago.

An interior ministry statement broadcast on Radio Aden said the 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. (1900 to 0200 GMT) curfew would operate from Saturday until midnight (2100 GMT) July 27.

During this time Aden will also be isolated from the rest of the country, the city's governor Taha Ahmad Ghanim said.

"Apart from food and oil products, entry into Aden will be forbidden from July 16 to 27 to all citizens or drivers coming from other governates," Ghanim said on Yemeni television.

He called on Aden's 500,000 residents to "help with the restoration of security and stability" in the city.

Looters ransacked Aden after it fell to northern troops, ending two months of civil war between forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and those of breakaway southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

Public services were brought to a standstill in the port city and offices, shops and hospitals stripped bare.

The government statement said the curfew would allow security services to "arrest the instigators of disorder."

Sanaa declared a curfew in all of Yemen's northern provinces during the civil war which broke out on May 5.

A separate statement said the government had also decided to "ban the carrying of arms in the governorate of Aden, from Sunday July 17," with the exception of security services, military police and security mission officials.

Anyone else carrying a weapon would be "investigated and their weapons would be seized," the statement said.

Carrying weapons is a tradition in strongly tribal Yemen. Similar weapon bans have failed in the past.

On Friday, the government announced a package of "immediate, urgent and dissuasive measures aimed at ending illegal actions targeting public and private property" in Aden.

Interior Minister Yahya al-Mutwakil announced the same day that 200 looters had been arrested in Aden, and said they "should be tried before a military tribunal."

Meanwhile, the military presence in Aden has lightened as the city shows the first signs of getting back to normal.

Shops have reopened and some public transport ran Saturday in the city centre.

Food prices, which soared during the war, fell slightly after a government announcement Friday that the state had "sufficient quantities" of foodstuffs to supply southern regions.

Aden television showed pictures of large stocks of corn, flour, rice and edible oil in the city's port. These stocks and further food supplies from abroad would soon be put on the market "at prices fixed by the state," according to supply and trade minister 'Abd-al- Rahman Ba-Fadl.

Salih pledged Tuesday that life would return to normal in Aden "within 20 days."

Cabinet Issues Statement on Aden Meetings

JN1507135594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jul 94

["Press statement" issued by the Yemeni Council of Ministers in Aden on 15 July]

[Text] The Council of Ministers met on Wednesday and Thursday, 13 and 14 July 1994, in the valiant city of Aden. The meetings were held in light of the manifest victory of the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy and the defeat of the forces of apostasy, rebellion, and secession.

At the start of its meetings, the Council of Ministers hailed our heroic Armed Forces and the stalwart masses, who sacrificed their lives to redeem the Yemeni homeland and safeguard its territorial integrity. The masses have demonstrated splendid steadfastness in the face of the gang of apostasy and secession.

The Council of Ministers devoted its agenda to discussing all issues related to the disasters and crimes committed against the homeland and the citizens as a result of this war, which was ignited by the rebels against the unity of the homeland and its legitimate constitutional institutions. The Council of Ministers paid special attention to the city of Aden, considering the destruction, chaos, and collapse of the state and social institutions in the city at the hands of the gang that rebelled against the will of our people.

The Council of Ministers listened to detailed reports from the ministers and heads of competent agencies in Aden about the situation in the city and in other cities. This includes the status of public facilities, government and private buildings, as well as infringements of the private rights of individuals. The Council of Ministers was also acquainted with the irresponsible actions by the subversive gangs that wreaked havoc in the city during the war and during the last moments of their defeat and prior to their escape.

The heroic city of Aden has embraced the meetings of the Council of Ministers with all its love and pride. The rebels wanted to turn this city into a shield for their treasonous conspiracies, vile objectives, and mean practices, which were strongly and firmly rejected by all honorable citizens in this city, just as they were rejected by the steadfast city of al-Mukallah and other steadfast cities, villages, plains, mountains, and deserts.

The meetings of the Council of Ministers, which were devoted to reconstruction, are in line with the promises made by the political leadership and the government to our people in the statement issued by the Presidential Council. Today, the leadership is fulfilling its promises.

Stemming from the government's historic responsibility at this important stage, the Council of Ministers has made the following decisions:

I. In the field of security:

1. Completing the return of all the military brigades deployed in the garrison of the city of Aden to their deployment posts in accordance with the decree issued by the brother chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

2. Completing the components of the security apparatus in the city of Aden and rebuilding it on systematic foundations that ensure a high degree of performance of its national duty. This is meant to restore stability and tranquillity.

3. Ensuring the operation of all public and private facilities.

4. Organizing entry and exit to and from Aden.

5. Disbanding any militias or any partisan or private armed militias. The popular defense committees shall be dissolved and their headquarters shall be returned to their original owners in accordance with the valid laws.

6. Adopting immediate decisive and deterrent measures against any encroachment or illegal practices under any pretext against immovable and movable properties, as well as public and private properties, and real estate owned by individuals, groups, or establishments.

II. Reconstruction:

1. The council shall set up a higher committee for reconstruction, and a decision by the Presidential Council shall outline its powers, responsibilities, and authorities in the following fields:

a. Making a list of civilian martyrs and injured and the harmed families, and the volume of damage in public and private properties in all governorates. Making a list of damage caused to individual properties and houses.
b. Working out a comprehensive and urgent program that targets compensating and assisting the families of the martyrs and injured, and the harmed families.
c. Starting reconstruction and compensating for the damage and destruction caused to public and private properties in all the republic's governorates.
d. Earmarking funds, capabilities, and means for reconstruction. Special funds shall be allocated for this objective

2. Activating positive and wide popular participation in the reconstruction efforts, and organizing charitable contributions from individuals and groups. For this purpose, committees shall be formed in governments and districts, and in the areas where expatriates live, under the supervision of the council and the higher committee for reconstruction.

3. Doubling the efforts to contact Arab, Islamic, and world states and organizations with the aim of getting needed assistance to support the Yemeni Government in reconstruction.

4. Studying the possibility of setting up a national fund for construction.

III. Immediate and urgent measures:

1. Water and electricity:

The Ministry of Electricity and Water and its affiliated establishments will be asked to expedite the implementation of the following tasks:

a. Repairing drinking water networks in Aden and al-Hawtah, and pumping water to the two cities again.
b. Repairing the main electricity network in Aden, al-Hawtah, [name indistinct], 'Imran, al-Rahidah, al-Dali'ah, and Shabwah.
c. Maintaining and repairing the generators in the electricity stations in Aden, and Aden al-Sughra, and al-Mahrah.
d. Working out an executive program to strengthen electricity power for consumption by homes, industry, and Aden refineries, and expediting a decision on the projects for the water and electricity establishments, including the project to strengthen electricity generation in Sanaa and Hadhramaut Governorates.

2. Food supplies:

a. Emphasizing the implementation of the prime minister's decision concerning the mechanism of providing and distributing basic foodstuffs—wheat and flour. The establishment, or the company, assigned the task of distributing these materials in Aden governorate must make available the governorate's needs with the appropriate speed in accordance with the decision.
b. Laying down a plan by the Supply and Trade Ministry to provide other foodstuffs to meet the need of the governorates which suffer shortages as part of the general import plan which will be presented to the higher supply committee.

c. Unloading the arriving ships and the shipments on which contracts were made at ports in Aden and Hadhramaut in accordance with the agreed distribution plan.

3. Oil supplies:

a. The Aden refinery administration will operate the various sections of the refinery in accordance with the agreed plan to rehabilitate the refineries and begin operations within a period of 15 days at the most.
b. The Aden refineries will be supplied with sufficient crude oil.
c. The refinery will work quickly to restore its relations with the companies it is dealing with.
d. The Yemeni Oil Company will speedily feed all gas stations in the Aden areas to ensure regular filling of these gas stations with oil byproducts.

4. Communications:

a. The communications minister will be charged with the quick restoration of telephone links in Aden and between Aden and other governorates as well as international connections as soon as possible.
b. Post offices will begin working and ordinary and urgent postal services will start immediately.

5. Transportation:

a. All preparations will be arranged to operate the Aden and al- Mukalla ports in particular. The ports corporation will be reactivated and foreign ties with maritime companies restored.
b. Required technical arrangements will be made to operate Aden International Airport. There will be an announcement that the airport will receive international flights. At a minimum level, speedy work must done for possible restoration of operation during the daylight hours.
c. Operating internal airports in all parts of Yemen.
d. Restoring land trips in buses between Aden and other governorates as soon as possible.
e. The Interior and Defense Ministries will make preparations for speedy restoration of vehicles which had been earmarked for the military efforts and will restore the private and public vehicles which were illegally taken away.

6. Administration and civil service:

a. Speedy operation of the administrative systems for the state and the public and mixed sectors by asking all employees to report to their work and duties.
b. Disbursing the salaries of all workers and other remunerations through July 1994 within a period of one week. The finance minister and the other establishments and bodies with independent budgets must take speedy measures to implement this. The finance minister will disburse salaries for establishments and corporations receiving subsidies or those which collapsed or were looted, in coordination with the governors.
c. Dealing with all employees in various departments will be done in accordance with the amnesty law and the Presidential Council statement and instructions issued by the Presidential Council's chairman in this regard.
d. A committee will be formed in agreement with the governors to make an inventory of everything that has been destroyed, looted, or stolen in terms of various pieces of furniture and equipment and means of transportation in the various branches of the ministries and government establishments and departments. The committee will be asked to make practical proposals to provide the resources in accordance with priorities and urgent needs.

7. Health, housing, and environment:

a. The minister of public health should exert its utmost efforts to provide urgent health services for injured citizens, particularly children, the elderly, and wounded civilians.
b. Organizing the relationship between civilian and military health services to benefit from medical aid arriving in the Republic.
c. Working out an effective mechanism on both the official and popular levels and using all the available potentials to clean the city of Aden and remove the debris.
d. Activating the work of environmental health.
e. Urging all governorates to contribute to this sector.

8. Education and information:

a. The education minister should quickly prepare a program to hold examinations at Aden University colleges, as well as secondary certificate examinations in Aden and the other governorates that have not yet held examinations.
b. Repairing the schools which have not yet held examinations.
b. [letter as heard] Repairing damaged schools and making necessary preparations to run the 1994-1995 school year in a normal way.
c. The information minister will draw up a media plan in harmony with current and future duties in order to reconstruct the situation and to formulate local public opinion that can further strengthen the internal front, promote popular efforts, and overcome the propaganda and lies of the forces that are hostile to our Yemeni people and their unity and security. The plan will also reassure the citizens and encourage them to offer more sacrifices and increase production. The minister will present the plan to the Council of Ministers within a week.
d. Resuming television transmission quickly to all governorates and operating the Second Channel and other local radio stations.

IV. Trends applying to the local government:

This includes forming a committee to prepare a concept of this aspect, a local government draft law, a draft law on amending certain laws, and a draft law on local revenues.

V. Trends applying to the market economy:

a. Asking the Higher Council of Economic Affairs to quickly preparing concepts of shifting to the market economy and presenting them to the Council of Ministers.
b. Asking the general corporation of free zones to prepare a timetable for turning the city of Aden into a free zone.
c. Asking the general corporation of investment to quickly submit a proposal to amend the investment law to provide better services for investors.
d. The Council of Ministers stressed the need to carry out its decision. No. 64 of 1993 regarding the site of the free zone in Aden.

The Council of Ministers, while announcing these decisions, stresses that it is prepared to mobilize all efforts to quickly reconstruct what was destroyed by the conspiracy of rebellion and secession and to lay down the groundwork for building a promising future for all the sons of the homeland under a democratic political system. On this occasion, the Council of Ministers regards itself and its committees as in constant session and appeals to all the honorable people in the homeland; to all the political, social, and economic sectors in the country; and to all the brothers and friends to extend a helping hand to overcome the disasters caused by this ordeal. And say: "Work righteous, soon will God observe your work, and His Apostle, and the believers. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] The Council of Ministers

Al-'Attar on Efforts To Restore Aden Water Supply

JN1507195294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Within the framework of his field visit to the economic and commercial capital, Aden, Acting Prime Minister brother Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister brother 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi, this morning visited the water pumping station in Ba'ir Nasir in Aden Governorate. The acting prime minister was acquainted with the efforts of engineers and technicians to repair the damage the secessionist rebels caused to the station. He was also acquainted with what has been done to resume pumping and to fix the tanks, pipes, and pumps.

The chief of the station presented a briefing about the steps that have been taken to repair the damage. He said some pumps have started pumping water into the Shaykh 'Uthman areas and al-Mansurah. He said work is continuing to complete repairs to other damaged pipes, tanks, and generators.

Brother al-'Attar stressed the importance of expediting work in view of the extreme importance of this issue for citizens' lives. He stressed the need to follow up all steps until machines and tanks are repaired and pumps are changed as soon as possible and water supply is fully restored to Aden. [passage omitted]

Aden, al-Mukalla Port Operations 'Back to Normal'

JN1607150394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] A responsible source at the Ministry of Supply and Trade has said the ports of Aden and al-Mukalla are now ready to receive all vessels carrying goods and commodities imported to the Republic of Yemen.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the source said: The brother merchants who obtained import licenses listing Aden and al-Mukalla as the ports of delivery, and who then changed them to other ports in the Republic of Yemen, can now have their goods shipped to the ports of Aden and al-Mukalla.

Concluding is statement, the source said arrivals and departures of vessels in the two ports are now back to normal.

'Accursed' Ekeus: Monitoring Operational by Sep

JN1507180194 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 9 Jul 94 p 2

[Text] The accursed Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission in charge of disarmament in Iraq, affirmed last Wednesday [6 July] in Kuwait that installation of the monitoring system to control Iraqi armament programs will be completed in September.

The Kuwaiti News Agency quoted the accursed Ekeus, who paid a 48-hour visit to Iraq, as saying that Iraqis are anxious to expedite the installation of the monitoring system, because they know more delay will prolong sanctions. He added: However, the Iraqis have not supplied the commission with the special documents and data determining the positions of the old weapons, or those which are related to the production system that developed the weapons of mass destruction.

The chairman of the commission pointed out that during his visit to Baghdad and talks with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, the Iraqis have been most cooperative with regard to the monitoring system and they have accepted strict control from now on. He added: On the political level, the Iraqis are showing more than the usual cooperation. During the talks, which were held in a good atmosphere, Tariq 'Aziz expressed his desire and readiness to see the monitoring system controlling Iraqi military capabilities installed as soon as possible.

The accursed Ekeus said that lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq is linked with Baghdad's recognition of its border with Kuwait. He said that Baghdad has affirmed its readiness to settle this matter one way or another.

The visit of the accursed Ekeus to Iraq takes place before the UN Security Council meeting which is expected to convene in the middle of this month to review the sanctions imposed on Iraq since August 1990. These sanctions are reviewed every two months to determine if the blockade can be lifted.

'Aziz Meets Butrus-Ghali in 'Spirit of Friendship'

JN1507185694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] United Nations, 15 Jul (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met today for an hour with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali. The meeting was attended by Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, Foreign Ministry under secretary, and Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent UN envoy.

Following the meeting, Tariq 'Aziz told reporters he had discussed the various elements in the implementation of the UN resolutions. He said the meeting was useful and was characterized by a spirit of friendship.

The deputy prime minister said he had explained to the UN secretary general the great progress in the implementation of the UN resolutions. 'Aziz added that he had also stressed that the Security Council should acknowledge this progress because Security Council resolutions are binding on Iraq and the Security Council members, as well. Those members issued these resolutions and they should honor them and fulfill their obligations toward Iraq.

Tariq 'Aziz added that he had met with the majority of the Security Council members, and that the meetings were useful. They have acknowledged that Iraq has made great progress and that the Security Council should acknowledge and welcome these developments.

Efforts To Implement Resolutions Welcomed

JN1607101494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] New York, 16 Jul (INA)—UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali has welcomed the efforts Iraq is making to implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

This came in a statement issued by the official spokesman for the UN secretary general yesterday evening following a meeting held between Dr. Butrus-Ghali and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

The official spokesman added that Tariq 'Aziz reviewed with the UN secretary general the moves Iraq has made to implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, as explained by Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Security Council's Special Commission, and detailed in the joint statement issued by the two sides at the end of a meeting held in Baghdad on 4-5 July.

Saddam 17 Jul Revolution Anniversary Speech

JN1707094594 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0704 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn marking the 26th anniversary of the 17-30 July revolution anniversary on 17 July; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O great people, children of our glorious nation. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Since time immemorial, and since the beginning of the great civilizations which appeared in Iraq, the land of Mesopotamia, for the first time in the world, a system was laid down, based on law, on the ruler's care for his people, and on correct bases, unprecedented in the areas surrounding Iraq, in more remote areas on earth, or to mankind as a whole.

Some 5,000 years ago, the Iraqis produced Tammuz [Assyrian god in ancient Mesopotamia], the man and leader who took good care of the needs of his people on the highest level. They greatly honored him and placed him in the highest possible rank in life in accordance with the standards of that time. This was because of his correct attitude toward his people and in order to encourage all rulers of Iraq, just before God enlightened the minds of the faithful on the need to believe in the unity of God, the Almighty so that they could perform their duties to God, themselves, and their own people.

The decision to place Tammuz in the highest possible rank was the people's decision. The people called Tammuz the virtuous son. This is the meaning of Dumuzi [Akkadian name of Tammuz]. He is the honest son of his people. The great decision of the Iraqi people became a standard for the governing leader in addition to being a standard of people's sincerity toward a leader or governor who possessed those traits at that time. Tammuz remained high in accordance with people's will and, more importantly and significantly, in terms of good work and proven ability to overcome difficulties and vicissitudes and make sacrifices.

Since the 17-30 July 1968 revolution, Tammuz returned to the field of responsibility and its correct yardsticks after a long absence during which he continued to adhere to the principles which he carried at the beginning. This is because the weak ones could not carry such legacy and because the people could not prove their ability in the field due to difficulties and backwardness.

Tammuz returned as a leader of the people and a virtuous son.

Tammuz is back to protect the weak from themselves after he had provided them with everything to help them clearly realize the highest meanings of faith in the one and only God, to nourish the elements of virtue in their minds, and to straighten the elements of weakness and evil within them. He is back to protect them from the others, the wolves of the foreigner and the wolves of their kin, who do not refrain from sin or follow what is right.

Tammuz is back, a faithful son of the people and the country and a wise, experienced leader with his new principles, adopted by his glorious revolution of 17-30 July 1968.

Tammuz is back, keeping in his memory, consciousness, and mind, the reasons and circumstances of his disappearance from the land of Mesopotamia more than 700 years ago. He is back to build and to lead the people and resist the invaders and covetous people, faithful and aware all the time that responsibility is an honor, based on the protection of rights, the establishment of justice, and giving freedom to he who helps himself and lets the revolutionaries help him break free from malice, rancor, subservience, and sabotage.

Tammuz is back to belong to all the people, according to the standards we have mentioned and regardless of the religion, creed, race, tribe, or city to which he belongs.

Tammuz is back to belong to all, with a basic condition; belief in the one homeland and not obstructing the road of the new renaissance, so that Iraq can reach the point it should reach. Thus, those among Iraq's Arab nation and others in the world—who seek, through friendship and fraternity, to interact legitimately with Iraq's principles and experience and learn of the singleness of God and the meanings of messages and prophets—can take from Iraq's fortunes, learn from its lessons, and rise on the basis of the meanings of its faith and principles. Iraq had the honor to embrace Abraham, the faithful son and the father of all prophets. There are also stories about the beginning of our Prophets Adam and Noah, God's blessings be upon them, in this blessed, productive land, Mesopotamia, the cradle of early civilizations.

With the return of Tammuz, full of the principles of faith and the great Ba'th of the nation, and imbued with the stature and wisdom of a brave and faithful leader and the care of a faithful son to his family, Iraq has risen anew. Although this was not without a price—in terms of the suffering and thorns along the road—the birth of Tammuz was sound and healthy in its thinking and in the first step it has taken along the road. This is the case of every beginning and birth in history, whereby the people turn into a people with a message and the land into an arena of great, faithful actions, and not only a place for shelter and shepherding, as was intended for our people throughout the bitter experiences that preceded its birth. The people who use the land only for their shelter and shepherding are those who do not link their destiny to that of their people and land, or it could be a foreigner usurper or unjust tenant.

O glorious Iraqi men and women: You have returned to your right place. So, hold the gear of construction and resistance correctly, because when a great people, who do not accept any place other than a pioneering position, rise, they do not have an opportunity open to them in a short time; nor do they acquire the necessary faith for their rise except over a long period. This is because when they rise, they stay at the top for hundreds of years. Likewise, when they descend from the summit, they stay at the bottom for hundreds of years.

This is how Iraq was when it established the beginning of four empires during the reign of its greatest kings. Its first beginning was 5,000 years ago. This is how Iraq was after Baghdad had become, in the name of God, the Arabs, and the Muslims, a beacon for the world in terms of faith, virtue, civilization, and the necessary measurements in the relationship with the God of earth and heavens and with one's self, the people, and the nation.

Because the enemies know these facts about Iraq, they have ganged up on it throughout history and established unjust, dishonorable alliances against it in order to dissuade it from its course whenever they perceived that Iraq is proceeding along the correct path and that its starting point would definitely enable it to achieve its objectives.

O stalwart Iraqi men; O glorious Iraqi women: When I talk to you about these meanings, I do not seek to inspire the necessary conditions for a beginning because you have proven throughout the bitter experiences of the past that you are a genuine, great, and wise people and deserve all commendable traits. You have proven for over 3,000 years that you are a loyal people. You have given Dumuzi, Tammuz, the trait of a faithful son and highly cherished him.

However, and out of a sense of responsibility, I deem it my duty toward God and toward you on this occasion and other occasions to enlighten you on whatever I think may be useful to you and may provide you with additional clarity of vision and the requirements of mounting the throne of virtue and enjoying the rightful harvest after the trouble of past days in a manner that will make you better prepared for the dangers posed by the perpetrators of the forbidden, the despots of oppression, and the designers of adversities. July, with the help of Almighty God and the Iraqi people's determination, has become a beacon for the nation and for the criteria of right and sacrifice in this age. It has also become a beacon for other peoples and nations and the criteria of their struggle and jihad as well as the aspired strength along the path of progress and development when they want to accomplish or safeguard their independence and free themselves from oppression, slavery, exploitation, and aggressiveness of those attacking them.

The July principles and the sincere, faithful July course have become an elevated beacon in the skies of virtue and pattern. These principles, along with other known ones, have turned into an honor in which we take pride and which gives us a full sense of satisfaction and all that pleases God and the faithful majority who believe in the promise and seek glory along the path of virtue and great principles of the July revolution. More good is coming, coming.

Arab mujahidin and strugglers; sons of our dear, glorious [Arab] nation: By talking to your people in Iraq the way I did, I do not mean that the Iraqis have certain qualities that you do not have or are detached from you due to historical reasons. I only wanted to turn the peculiarity of your people in Iraq into something which reminds them—and they do not forget it—that they are qualified to play their role within the nation and to perform their duty toward this nation's historic mission toward itself and mankind. Without taking the nation as a model and without being spurred by its loftiness, ancient history, and heritage in their jihad, the Iraqi people's role will be meaningless in accordance with the criteria of the historic role and historic meaning that will be recorded for you and for the people of Iraq when one plays his role toward his nation as a righteous son and a brave, zealous believer who will not be barred from his duty by any barrier. In the meantime, I wanted to tell you through all this that your people in Iraq are worthy of your good opinion of them and their role and what you expect from them in terms of good jihad positions and endurance.

This is because they are a people with deep roots who played great historical roles throughout their history and civilization, which date back to ancient times. Hence, they are capable of shouldering the responsibility that could be placed on their shoulders in terms of the roles they can be asked to play in this age. Likewise, I would like to perform my duty toward you by enlightening those who seek to know more about their Iraqi people and their cultural richness, a richness that is an asset to you, and a wellspring of faith, sacrifices, and glory along the same great path to be walked by the same and one nation so that it may play its humane and pan-Arab role in order to vindicate its eternal message.

God is great. Pride, glory, and victory to the Arabs in their relentless quest for progress, which will elevate their pride and enrich humanity's march toward wellbeing, love, and faith.

O great people;
O sons of our glorious Arab nation;

Any great beginning is bound to be inspired by a great idea. Once the great beginning is tested and follow-up action regarding it is taken, a step or steps of the same caliber and significance must follow. The month of July was the seed of the noble idea. The starting point in it was the revolution. This step came on the heels of a virtuous idea along a new path to promote faith. The policies pursued along this path were designed to produce forceful action in our contemporary age. They were also meant to chart a proper course for success, construction, and security.

For any idea to be virtuous, it must begin by fighting falsehood and those upholding it, regardless of whether they are at the front lines, or in the deep enclaves of the nation's history—the weights that rendered the nation almost immobile, prevented the realization of its aspirations, and caused the death of those who have died. The idea must be provoked by noble sentiments. Such an idea must produce what needs to be produced; namely, virtue and noble deeds. The revolution reflected the message, and made significant moves along a new course.

The period 17-30 July in 1968 constituted the starting point along the road of salvation from all that needs to be discarded, and the start line for each and every enlightened action and deed meant to promote the lot of the people and provoke the elders' determination to safeguard the homeland's sovereignty, enhance the people's dignity, promote virtue and wellbeing, and build an impregnable base for a new civilization for the nation based on its profound legacy and noble descent.

Just as any new idea prompted by a desire to achieve pride, renaissance, construction, and glory; nurtured by great faith in God Almighty; and spearheaded by a proper starting point and follow-up moves to implement its panoramic course in terms of faith and life, it had to clash with its enemies, and the elements of the nation pursuing a course that cherishes vice and weakness. The goal of these enemies and elements was to make the revolution abandon its programs and derail it.

The July Revolution has faced events, some of which you know of and others which have not yet been revealed, just like any other revolution and message with such principles in faith, life, and progress. Before taking the first step in 1968 and since the time of underground struggle, which established its ideas of jihad and sacrifice, the revolutionaries understood the difficulties they would face and understood that the revolution would need perseverance, sacrifice, and continuity, without weakness or deviation from the unavoidable road to arrive at the planned stations and the objectives and action, guided by God Almighty.

Thus, mankind has confronted an eternal struggle since the time of Adam, peace be upon him, in which the actions of the prophets, messengers, and those who followed them provided the model. Here we have a growing action to build the human being and provide the conditions of a life that is in harmony with a supreme picture and its requirements, in terms of doing good and demonstrating patience, sacrifice, and fortitude on the basis of the experiences and meanings of our undying heritage; or on the basis of the meanings of construction and jihad that can be envisaged according to our present-age standards. These actions mark a step in this direction or steps toward what is supreme and exemplary. On the other hand, we have a step or steps opposite in direction, intention, meaning, and force.

This has been the case since the first step after 17-30 July in 1968, and this is how the situation continues to date. Despite the fact that the revolutionaries, together with the masses of the people, realized from the beginning that a march with such a direction and ambition to change and construct, will inevitably face extraordinary difficulties. The reactions that faced our trend and the obstacles which the enemies and the weak ones placed on the path of the victorious march of July have revealed to us the greatness of the gap between what the enemies wanted the condition of the nation and people to be and that sought by the revolution. They also revealed to us the greatness of the gap between the condition of the great people of Iraq and our glorious Arab nation before the revolution on the one hand, and their condition after the revolution and the status and position we wish them to achieve on the other.

The accursed enemies and those who stooped to their level, as manifested in the evil and aggressive positions they have taken and the miscalculation they have made, have brazenly and frequently demonstrated that they are hostile to each and every renaissance potential, to each and every pillar of support, and to each and every strength in the nation. Those who have repeatedly conspired against the elements of strength, renaissance, and faith in Iraq; lined up humiliatingly with the enemy; and supported its unjust stand from the outset, are themselves part of the foreigners' action against the Somali people, the Sudanese people, and the Muslim Afghan people. These are the very people, with the same pale faces, who conspired and are conspiring against united Yemen and its unified people. They found their own agents to realize their aims, having experienced how they themselves were agents of others. They found their agents among those who never knew Arabism, its values, or its principles. Islam has never found its way to their hearts and minds. However, God failed them and defeated their deception and treachery. The ancient, true Arab people of Yemen proved their adherence to their unity and the unity of their territory, as they have been throughout their history.

We salute the fraternal people of Yemen and we congratulate them on completing the factors of their unity so that Yemen will remain as always a support for Arabism and Islam and a faithful fortress in facing the ambitions and plots of the foreigners on the edge of the Red Sea. We congratulate the Yemeni leadership on this great historic achievements which pleased every faithful heart and original pan-Arabist from the [Atlantic] Ocean to the [Persian] Gulf. Accursed be the criminals and their supporters and masters, the enemies of God, Arabism, and Islam.

O Arabs, O glorious Iraqi men, O glorious Iraqi women. We said on previous occasions and we repeat what we said by addressing regimes and governments in the Arab homeland which took hostile and rancorous positions. The period between 1990 to the present date should be enough to guide whoever God wants to guide and grant wisdom; to be deterred, and stop sick wishful thinking and determination to inflict harm, which could only exacerbate wounds in the soul and memory. This course will not realize their known wishes. Whoever wants to save himself from its illness and whoever has reached the conclusion that he should remedy what the well-known conditions corrupted we tell him that the doors of Iraq are still open for positive interaction should there be such intention and action. Such a position can still have its impact on the Iraqis so that this will brush aside some of the obstacles along the path of the nation in its immortal quest to assert itself in a balanced way.

Nobody should forget that in the best of cases, if the foreigner assumes the right of sovereign decisionmaking, he will take care of his own interests first. Therefore, the foreigner cannot sacrifice his future interests for any short-term interests, and he cannot have a firm covenant with a ruler or a government if he finds out that this exceeds his resources or does not conform to his interest.

In any case, peace realized by the fleets and promises of foreigners cannot compensate for the peace realized by the positive relationship in the lap of the nation. The security that the nation provides is an honor whereas the protection of the foreigners and their trusteeship is shameful and brands the living and the dead and their children after them.

We reiterate that we offer peace and security to whoever needs them, including rulers who harmed us. This might benefit our nation. At any rate, we have offered what is satisfactory to God and freed ourselves from blame. Everyone is well aware and is under no illusion that we fear nobody but the one and only God. We fear him and request his pardon and forgiveness at all times. There is nothing that prompts us to say anything or to refrain from saying anything except our nation's interests. This is also based on a faithful view and an honest action now and in the future. God be my witness that I have delivered the message.

As is the case with our glorious Arab nation, throughout its history and immortal heritage, the great people of Iraq—who have been a great and living part of it throughout the phases of their shining civilizations—would never complete the requirements for awakening without the availability of some basic pillars. Primarily, their awakening should be based on spiritual and moral foundations and on cultural aspiration to play a role in the existence of the universe amid the meanings of the age in which the nation has an influential and highly significant meaning. Cultural aspiration for a great role cannot but be national, pan-Arab, and universal. This universal role is attained only through a shining, bright, and effective model by offering thoughts and higher values and meanings that rest on its depth and the depth of its glorious nation.

This has been the case with the July revolution. It is proceeding along a path to glory, virtue, and a balanced existence of man and life. While many revolutionaries in the history of humanity were content with a small gain, the July revolutionaries have not been corrupted—nor have they slackened a bit—while proceeding on their great path to achieve their major objectives. Authority did not tempt them, nor did it conceal the meanings of great principles from their eyesight. Also, its mean gains did not distance them from the higher meanings and greater gains. The flattery of the minority and their means of diversion and sabotage did not divert their attention from the meanings of the great satisfaction of God and the majority of the people and the nation—in terms of justice, right, and the meanings of a life established on balanced standards and moral and material laws.

Despite the fact that the revolutionaries sustained many losses and were wearied in the course of their long confrontation—some of them were content with the gains they made at the expense of long-term aspirations—they have always marched steadily forward upholding the meanings of great faith and the honor of the pledge they had truly made to themselves, their principles, comrades, and great people and nation. This was intended to fulfill the duties awaiting them in their country and nation and the meanings of their more comprehensive jihad.

Thus, the July revolution has achieved the accomplishments known to the people throughout Iraq, including all that is connected to them in terms of large cultural aspirations and great moral, cultural, artistic, and spiritual meanings. The first steps of the revolution, as I have said, witnessed struggle against falsehood because a basic part of the struggle was between life and the new cultural role of the great people of Iraq and our glorious Arab nation on the one hand, and the enemies of the progress of this people and this nation on the other; and between the new values of our present age and the opposite ones.

Tammuz, fed by the experience of generations over 5,000 years, is today stronger, more energetic, wiser, more capable, more enlightened, and more persuasive than ever before after his chaste, fragrant soul and spirit have been cleansed by the aroma of the monotheism of Almighty God, and after he has decided that satisfaction or dissatisfaction with him is not contingent on one person or example in a state of oneness as was the case in the relationship between him and Inanna, Ishtar [mythical goddess], but the satisfaction of the people and nation after that of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Therefore, there is no fear today about Tammuz, the symbol and leader of faith and construction, and the symbol, teacher, and inspirer of justice and chivalry in the face of oppression, slavery, subservience, weakness, humiliation, and tyranny. He is also the center of great faith.

Great people: Last year and on this blessed occasion, I spoke to you. One of the most important things I said, and which we are discussing now, was our reference to important aspects in international politics and how the situation may unfold, particularly the development we awaited and urged regarding the unilateral stand of the one pole. We presented a detailed offer on this subject. I do not see a reason to return to it except as much as it concerns us to say there is a remarkable development in the positions of Europe in general, and the positions of certain European states in particular. This development, particularly the insistence that the UN Security Council fulfill its obligations honestly to reciprocate Iraq's compliance with the resolutions passed against it under well-known pretexts, and the urging that the UN Security Council comply with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, as a prelude to an all-out and complete lifting of the sanctions clamped on Iraq, is significant. This development in viewpoint as well as part of the European stand included many governments, popular circles, and important centers concerned with the adoption of political and economic decisions. Therefore, the political embargo in them began to practically disintegrate. Failure to seriously listen to Iraq's viewpoint in the past due to the influence of influential circles in the unilateral pole was replaced by good listening to the Iraqi view by most of the concerned states. Although China was the only state to adopt a relatively positive position on Iraq and did not join the forces that committed aggression or their policies and aims, which pursued Iraq with unjust measures and decisions, it did not make a serious effort to initiate fruitful dialogue with Iraq in the past years.

However, since last year, China has developed its stand through direct, serious, and fruitful dialogue with Iraq and has invited senior officials to visit Beijing. Despite the fact that until now Russia continues to fall into considerations that extend from the historic and strategic standpoints over many years to others that now exist in international politics, subject to short- term benefits extended by certain circles, especially well-known states in the Arabian Gulf region, this country has also clearly emphasized the importance of effecting a dialogue and exchanging views on a high level between it and Iraq. A meeting was held between comrade Tariq 'Aziz, the deputy prime minister, and the Russian foreign minister in Petersburg this month and we hope it will be fruitful and result in Russia restoring its image and reputation that will be commensurate with its status in the world and in this region where Russia's policy has been subjected to doubts since Gorbachev submitted to the whims of the American potentate in his hostility toward a country that was friendly to Russia and to the USSR, in which Russia was the most effective and active part.

In the third world countries, Iraqi representatives are being received on a large scale and at the highest levels. Iraq is looked upon there as a model of patriotism in view of the principles these countries uphold against tyranny and oppression. Some third world representatives at the UN Security Council are now taking an advanced stand against tyranny and the violation of international laws, contrary to what the situation has been in the past years when they were just good listeners to the forces of tyranny and domination.

In short, the international political position in general, and in this year whose first day begins now on the anniversary [as heard], will be better than the one that preceded it. Better prospects will open on levels that God, the merciful and the compassionate, would allow, and other ways out will be found that God, the best of planners, will permit. Thus, we will have passed the last 10 days of the Ramadan fast, to which we now liken [in terms of difficulty] the days of the siege. I say that in our present position, we have covered part of these ten days. Success comes from God.

It has been part of my responsibility to present to you some description [of the situation] which I deem beneficial so that you can have a better vision of conditions on the international level and the application of policies there concerning our current problem. However, I do not ask you to pin your hopes on any factor unless you are relying on your own action and influence as well as the action and influence of your leaders in events—an influence which, after great God's care, is the basic pillar in all the transformation that has taken place and which are expected in international politics vis-a-vis our basic cause at this stage; namely, ending the embargo and defeating the aggressive instincts and the spirit of oppression, rancor, and evil on which some leading circles are continuing to pin their hopes even if these instincts are about to collapse at their last line of defense after the exposure of the real intentions of the aggression and the embargo and in view of the steadfastness of great Iraq.

The causes of the aggression have been exposed. So have the justifications for its continuation, even to the peoples of the countries concerned and some of their policymakers. The fallen people have relentlessly raised new issues to justify the prolongation of the embargo and to blackmail Iraqis over what they can or cannot do. They are embarrassed on technical, legal, and political levels when confronted with Iraq's cohesive position and its cogent legal argument, whose strength is derived from the legal provisions enshrined in the very UN Security Council resolutions passed against Iraq. Iraq is using these provisions as part of its political argument, which is grounded in fairness and right.

O Iraqis: The factor that made the aggression states and their allies experience failure, with some of them feeling shame due to their aggressiveness and repeated aggressions, including the two recurring aggressions, and which prompted them to abandon their course, is linked to your unity, cohesion, and the effectiveness and impact of your jihad and your efforts in the field of reconstruction to reverse the aggression and sabotage, not to mention your ability to achieve development, contain harmful phenomena, and address their impact. This is also linked to your vigor, and the vigor your leadership has shown in the reconstruction effort and in management on all levels and areas. Nobody can deny the vigor and energy you have demonstrated, and the impact they have left on the Arab and international popular scenes, not to mention the vigorous efforts your leadership has made on the official Arab and foreign scenes.

The basic weapon that can be used to confront harmful and catastrophic developments, and the evildoers' intentions of harming Iraq and prolonging the embargo, is linked to the extent of your cohesion and vigor. These should be seen by all those suffering from blurred vision, just as they are seen in Iraq, the country that gave birth to the great July revolution. This is what we are trying to do. You are our great depth in terms of the role we are playing, and the assault we could engage in, and in terms of construction and chivalry, whenever such a situation is ordained by God. You are our great asset in this mission, just as you were in all the missions that left a historical impact in terms of promoting, strengthening, and enhancing great faith.

O great Iraqi people;
O magnanimous men within the ranks of our valiant Armed Forces;
O glorious Arab nation;

Regardless of all the phenomena that we see in the Arab homeland, no matter how bleak they might seem, they all, including those that could provoke the greatest amount of bitterness and show the greatest possible deception, are incapable of refuting the strong convictions and the premise that our Arab nation—masses, political and popular movements, unions and associations in general—is experiencing a resurrection along its faith-inspired pan-Arab jihad course. This is grounded in creativity and inventiveness, despite difficult circumstances, thanks to the resilience of its sons everywhere, which is exuding faith and determination to forge ahead.

The Arab nation's sons are showing no signs of reluctance or confusion. They view the eternal Mother of Battles with its great principles and lessons, namely, jihad and the endurance that can be demonstrated by faithful people, as an example and model to be emulated. They are seeking inspiration from the depths of history, the nation's philosophy, and its great spiritual legacy, not to copy the past and neutralize time intervals, but to establish a connection with the profound legacy of the past while addressing the present, taking into account the need to rehabilitate ideas and identify the paths to be walked and the figures to be emulated.

The goal is for each and every one to play his own role to serve our Arab nation and its new renaissance on its great path to build itself and make a new cultural contribution to the human effort that can move forward in the direction of rights, justice, fairness, and stability and against hegemony, tutelage, tyranny, exploitation, and injustice.

The seeds of faith, and the requirements for its interaction with the road that leads to the knowledge of the nation's role in this age, are growing in every house. The deviant and weak Arab regimes and rulers are very embarrassed to keep their positions, policies, and connections. The thrones of some of them are shaking, while some others are frustrated because they were exposed. Despite that, some of them are still squandering the wealth of the nation by conspiring against it and spending that wealth in fields other than those that can bring dignity to the nation and his own people, strengthen the walls of virtue, and encourage the weak ones to abandon their weakness by providing them with support.

Some are charmed by his foreign masters' flattering and those who sing their praise, and who share their humiliating position and situation, and not by the opinion and position of their own people and nation. Others are seeking the approval of the foreigner and not that of God or the people. Some even no longer give any weight to their people's opinion because he has become totally convinced that he does not belong to the people and is busy building interests and relations outside the homeland, instead of paying attention to the interests of the people and relations with them.

Sons of our glorious Arab nation: The power of renaissance and its historic need, as well as the high degree of readiness to sacrifice, do not often come at the required level when the state of the nation is within the correct context alone. But it also arrives with a high level and action when a foreigner insults it, or when someone from the nation itself rises to stab it and obstruct its road and falls into the abyss of crime, treachery, and shame.

All the heavenly messages arrived at a proper time in history, in which the general readiness to rise was a decided matter, and, at the same time, when the smell of deterioration in certain fields was blocking the noses. The nation found in these messages the reservoir of its noble values and the conditions for its historical awakening and its timing. The nation then treaded on its correct path.

Thus has been the case of the nation, even at times of prophet-free civilizations, in which prosperity and new relations among the children of the nation were realized. This and other instances prove that our nation, when it finds the healer, turns sickness into health. On the debris of sickness our nation finds the way to its subsequent role. We love our mothers and do not hesitate to make the biggest sacrifices for their sake. This is not only when they are youthful and healthy, but also when they get sick or assailed by the monsters of the earth. Our obligations toward our nation are the same as those of the children toward their mother.

The morale of the mujahidin and leaders is not only derived from the surrounding in which they work, but also, basically, from the source of faith in their souls and the soundness of their stand and historic approach for saving the nation and activating its inherent elements of strength, health, and ambition. Given this and other sources of strength utilized by the faithful, we have full confidence in our nation and its ability to face up to the challenges of reconstruction and confrontation. What is taking place against it is only an attempt to preoccupy it and obstruct its advancement. However, the path of advancement is bright, guiding those who want to follow it. On the other hand, the lowly ones will be lost in the darkness. Certainly, God supports the faithful. The banners of glory, which give our nation optimism and strength to face up to the present and future challenges, are filling all arenas and invigorating the overwhelming majority of the masses of the people. The path is lit by chaste souls and great faith. God is great.

Immortality and mercy for the martyrs of the nation. Immortality and mercy for the martyrs of the Mother of Battles and the second al-Qadisiyah [the 1980-1988 war with Iran]. Greetings to all Arab strugglers and mujahidin, irrespective of their location and beliefs. Greetings to the stone-throwing children in occupied Palestine and all Palestinians who believe in liberation and victory. Greetings to every friend who adopted a fair stand on the issues of the nation and the issues of Iraq. Greetings to Palestine. Greetings to the July revolutionaries, both alive and dead. Greetings to them and to their families.

Peace and God's mercy and blessings be with you.

God is great. God is great. Accursed be the lowly.

Rabin, King Husayn To Meet at White House 25 Jul

Radio Report Leaders' Decision

TA1507153394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Jordan's King Husayn will meet in 10 days at the White House with President Clinton, upon the latter's invitation. This will be the first public meeting between the leaders of Israel and Jordan. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the official announcement of the meeting is currently being released in the three capitals.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1505 GMT on 15 July carries a recorded statement, read by Eytan Haber, director general of the Prime Minister's Bureau, which says: "The Prime Minister's Bureau in Jerusalem announces: His Excellency King Husayn, the king of Jordan, and Yitzhaq Rabin, Israel's prime minister and defense minister, will meet on Monday, the 17th of the month of Ab 5,757, 25 July 1994, upon an invitation from U.S. President Bill Clinton. The king and the prime minister will confer at the White House in Washington."]

Spokesman on Rabin Acceptance

NC1507154394 Paris AFP in English 1531 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Jerusalem, July 15 (AFP)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said Friday [15 July] that he would meet King Husayn of Jordan in Washington on July 25, in response to an invitation from US President Bill Clinton.

"The prime minister received this invitation Friday and immediately announced his acceptance of it," government spokesman Oded Ben Ami told AFP.

Peres: 'Dramatic Development'

TA1507165894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Reacting to the report on the upcoming meeting between King Husayn and Prime Minister Rabin, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said this evening that it is a dramatic development that would start a new relationship between the two countries. Interviewed on IDF Radio, Peres said he does not believe that the king will cancel the meeting. The Israeli-Jordanian engine has started rolling.

[Begin Peres recording] For now, the train engine with several important cars has started moving. It is so important that it does not need other things added to it. Fundamentally, this is about ending the state of belligerency, beginning a state of peace, developing the economy, and the ways to attain these goals. Naturally, the fact that this is a tripartite meeting between the United States, Jordan, and us, is also important. There is an American part here that no one is trying to disregard or hide. [end recording]

Peres on Summit, Syrian Reaction

TA1507180194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Gil'ad 'Adin on 15 July, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Peres] We have been waiting for this opportunity for a very long time. It is not only a summit meeting, it is a change on the ground, and a very fundamental one. This is really an opening of a new era in our relationship with Jordan and in the entire Middle East. The fact that this is being done in broad daylight is of extreme importance. It puts an end to secrecy, to underground meetings, to reservations. This has been called for by the prevailing state of affairs for a very long time. There is no reason for real conflict between us and Jordan. There are very many reasons for us to live in peace, in the open, along the longest border we have with an Arab country.

['Adin] Do the meetings with the Jordanians, and now the summit meeting, mean that Jordan is, in fact, headed toward a peace agreement with Israel without waiting for Syria?

[Peres] The king has said that Jordan should consider its interest on its own. I feel that the king believes that, eventually, we will reach a comprehensive agreement in the Middle East, and I think he is right. We want to reach a comprehensive agreement through separate negotiations with each of the countries because it is impossible to hold comprehensive negotiations. If you do that, the pace is determined by the slowest party.

['Adin] We have so far not heard any Syrian reaction to your declaration from yesterday. Are you disappointed?

[Peres] No. Disappointments and declarations have gone on their way, played their part, and I believe that they, to a large extent, will facilitate the negotiations with Jordan. We have no business creating an impression that we kiss and hug with Jordan while turning our back on Syria. If the Syrians turn their backs on us, they are really turning their backs on themselves. Perhaps, Syria will reach the necessary conclusions as well.

Peres on Border, Water Problems

TA1607125794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Yoram Ronen; place not given—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]

[Ronen] Mr. Peres, several very serious issues will most probably be raised in the Rabin-Husayn summit meeting, as well as in your meeting with the Jordanian officials and Warren Christopher on 20 July. I am referring to border demarcation in the 'Arava and other places, and the problem of water sources. Will we, for example agree to exchange territories with Jordan?

[Peres] The border problem is difficult. There are different problems on every segment of the border. There is a difference between the 'Arava, the Dead Sea area, and the Bet She'an Valley in the north. At the same time, based on things I know, I can say the problems can be solved, though in stages. I would not want to go into details because I believe that if you go ahead and offer solutions, you are asking for opposition. I believe, however, that the border problem is solvable and that the solution found will be relatively reasonable and will not take much time to implement.

As to water: We have a very simple choice here. We can argue at length about the past, about historical rights, about distributing the shortage. What good will this do? Alternatively, we can devote ourselves to finding new water sources. If I may, I wish to present some figures. Mr. Tzur, the Israel water commissioner, provided me with the following document which—speaking about five partners: Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinians—says: In order to solve the problem of water shortage in the next decade we need some $13 billion annually. The water will come from five sources: One, management of existing water, which currently is horrendously wasteful. Correct management of the water sources will double its effectiveness. Second, recycling water, as we do in Israel. This can add some 60 percent to the existing water. Third, water desalination. Fourth, introducing crops, plants, livestock, poultry, and fish that require less water. Fifth, trapping rain waters in reservoirs, creating artificial rain, and so on. This is a great plan. I believe the money for this can be found. I believe we should look at the future. I have a vision of an economically flourishing 'Arava and Jordan Rift Valleys, where charming, neighborly relations are maintained. [passage omitted]

Opposition Reacts

TA1607171494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] The Tzomet Party says it supports the signing of a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan. Party Chairman Refa'el Eytan told Israel radio the present borders were the appropriate framework for signing accords.

Moledet leader, Knesset Member Rehav'am Ze'evi said peace with Jordan should not come at the expense of pulling out more feathers [as heard] from Israel. He said Jordan was established on three-quarters of the territory earmarked for the Jewish national home, and therefore did not need strips of land from 'Arava settlements.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1000 GMT on 16 July adds: "Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu says any progress toward a contractual peace with Jordan should be welcomed. An agreement with Jordan would bring Israel to a situation that would prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state. The chairman of the Likud faction at the Knesset, Moshe Qatzav, told Israel radio that Israel must not agree to any concessions prior to the king's signing a peace treaty in which Israel's interests would also be preserved."]

Jerusalem Mayor Invites Husayn

TA1807044894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert has invited King Husayn to visit the city. Olmert sent the invitation to the king via Nasir al-Din al-Nashashibi, who has close contacts with the monarch.

In the message, Mayor Olmert says that whenever the king wishes to come he will be a welcome and honored guest of the Jerusalem Municipal Council. Al-Nashashibi had earlier presented the king with an invitation to visit Jerusalem from the city's former mayor, Teddy Kollek.

Peres Further Comments on Talks

TA1807073394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by moderator Dalya Ya'ari and guest interviewer Natmar Hilel; place not given; from the "Another Matter" program; place not given—live]

[Text] [Ya'ari] Good morning, Foreign Minister Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Ya'ari] We have wiped the skeptical smirk off our face. We remember how several months ago, in an interview to Qol Yisra'el's yearly newsreel you told political correspondent Shlomo Raz and myself that all that was missing in the relations between Jordan and Israel was a pen, not an agreement, because both countries had virtually reached an agreement and all we had to do was take out the pen and sign it. Have we reached that moment?

[Peres] Most certainly, yes.

[Ya'ari] Do you feel like a father walking the bride down the aisle?

[Peres] I would not use such personal terms. I feel that I am one of the people who contributed to this achievement; however, I do not seek any credit for my part.

[Ya'ari] Nevertheless, we have heard reports of opposition within Jordan. Do you feel that the protests by the Jordanian opposition could endanger the agreement?

[Peres] No, I think that there are always those who believe in and declare their support for the status quo. They, however, have no role to play in the future. They have nothing to offer. There is no alternative. Jordan, like Israel, faces severe economic, social, and security problems. One cannot always take the easy way out by revolting and constantly issuing declarations. One must be serious and practical minded.

[Ya'ari] Nevertheless, today's headlines dampen the festive nature marking the start of the negotiations toward an agreement with Jordan. The papers' are full of blaring headlines about yesterday's riots at the Erez checkpoint. Do you fear a deterioration in relations with the Palestinians in light of what happened at the checkpoint?

[Peres] Look, there is always room for concern and regret; however, this will not detract from the necessity of making progress. I believe history is on our side and no one can stop it. Although there may be delays, problems, and even to my great regret human casualties, both we and the Palestinians will continue moving forward in this direction because there is simply no other alternative.

[Ya'ari] Mr. Peres, our guest interviewer this morning is Natmar Hilel. She is an Ethiopian immigrant who is now a social worker. She also has a question for you on this matter.

[Hilel] Mr. Peres, how will the negotiations with Jordan effect the Syrian track?

[Peres] It is very difficult to know. Syria's president is a relatively inscrutable individual. Syria's leadership and policies are a riddle to a great extent. They are pretty hard to read.

[Hilel] Do we then expect a similar development with Syria?

[Peres] The day will come but I do not know when.

[Ya'ari] Let us move back to the Jordanian track. At this initial stage, we have great expectations. Where do you see the difficulties in reaching an agreement with Jordan?

[Peres] We shall encounter difficulties in demarcating the borders, in resolving water issues, in reaching economic definitions; however, all these problems are in my opinion resolvable.

[Ya'ari] What about Jordan's fear of a separate Palestinian entity along its borders? Do you think that an agreement could lead to Palestinian activity inside Jordan?

[Peres] I do not think so. I think that the Hashemite regime is firmly in control of its kingdom. One must not forget that the king has kept his throne for over 40 years. That is a long time during which he has demonstrated his abilities to maintain control. He has made some mistakes, just like everyone else; however, he has demonstrated control and relatively speaking, Jordan has the most civilized regime in the region, except for Israel.

[Ya'ari] Nevertheless, many pundits assert that what spurred the Jordanians to take this step was their fear of such a Palestinian entity.

[Peres] Look, the commentators look for reasons to justify their commentaries. Of course, this development was the accumulation of many factors and there is no doubt that the Oslo agreement constituted one of them; however, it was not the only factor. Nothing can really prevent the implementation of an idea which has reached fruition.

[Ya'ari] What do you plan to say to the Jordanian prime minister?

[Peres] That we are very serious. That we have no wish to undermine either the dignity or sovereignty of Jordan. The contrary is true. We are prepared to respect their dignity, and we expect this to be reciprocal. We also uphold our honor and sovereignty. The main thing is that peace will create unprecedented economic opportunities to turn the entire 'Arava into a valley of peace, full of desalination plants, transportation and tourism enterprises. In my opinion, we can change the water situation, landscape, and create jobs. We can bring a message of hope to the young generation.

[Ya'ari] Mr. Peres, it is impossible to even smile or think here he comes again with his vision of the new Middle East. Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Peres.

Likud, NRP Leaders React to Erez Incidents

TA1707183294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Knesset Member [MK] Binyamin Netanyahu, chairman of the Likud, says that the incidents near the Erez checkpoint prove once again that the Rabin government is making a grave mistake in relying on 'Arafat's promises. In Netanyahu's opinion, Israel must leave exclusive responsibility for order and security in Judaea and Samaria in the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] hands.

MK Zvulun Hammer, leader of the National Religious Party [NRP], says that not only are the Palestinian police not in control of the situation, but they also incite and inflame tempers. [passage omitted]

Beilin Comments on Observers, Police at Checkpoints

TA1707171794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat says that the shooting by the Israeli forces at the Erez roadblock is a violation of the peace agreement with the PLO and that the Israelis fired at Palestinian laborers indiscriminately. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, one of the Palestinian Authority members, said that at 'Arafat's request, he has appealed to the United States and the European countries to station international observers in the autonomy areas at once.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin has rejected 'Arafat's demand for the stationing of international observers in the autonomy regions in the wake of today's riots. Beilin says that the experience in Hebron proves that international observers forces have no real value and that it is the Palestinians and Israelis who must solve the problems. According to Beilin, Israel now needs a time-out to study today's riots and ways to prevent their recurrence, and it is to this end that the border crossings should be closed. Beilin said that overall, the performance of the Palestinian police since the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] departure from Gaza and Jericho has been a success story, but it is now necessary to do everything to clarify to the Palestinian policemen exactly what their duties are.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe notes that numerous Gaza laborers who do not possess permits to enter Israel have come to the Erez checkpoint in recent days in an attempt to cross the Green Line. Chief Inspector Ze'ev Goldwasser, a shift commander at the Erez checkpoint, warned IDF elements a week ago that riots might erupt at the site. A senior source told our correspondent that entry permits were issued to only 21,000 laborers. He emphasized that there is no demand in Israel for more Gaza laborers and that it is the international community that must take care of the Gaza residents' livelihood.

Rabin Interviewed on Palestinian Authority, Syria

NC1707210694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said his country has adopted a strategic decision to regard the PLO under Chairman 'Arafat's leadership as Israel's partner. In an interview to be published by AL-AHRAM tomorrow, Rabin said: I have decided not to issue a verdict on Chairman 'Arafat. Israel's verdict on 'Arafat will not be based on what happened in the past but on the way he carries out his commitments and honors his obligations under his agreement with us.

Regarding reports about Israel's intention to speed up the implementation of self-rule in other West Bank towns, Rabin said: Let us first make a distinction between what we have undertaken now to speed up the transfer of authority and hold early elections. [sentence as received]

Rabin added: With regard to elections, they will be discussed in the end within the framework of negotiations on the interim agreement. This will take a long time, and it is better for matters to proceed as they are now.

Asked whether Israel will allow Palestinian (? police) to enter the West Bank during the talks on the transfer of authority, Rabin said: No. I think it is not possible to divide the responsibility on security issues between two authorities.

Referring to the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, Rabin said: I do not think it is possible at this stage to go into details about the negotiations between Syria and Israel. I think that the Syrians will be making a grave mistake if they think that the United States bears the responsibility for Israel. This will not happen. The U.S. policy is clear. The parties to the conflict must bear the responsibility for putting an end to the state of war, violence, and terrorism and work for establishing peaceful relations.

Cabinet Bans Palestinian Political Activity in Israel

TA1807104594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] The cabinet today endorsed the law banning the Palestinian entity from conducting political activity inside Israel, and especially inside Jerusalem. Anyone violating this law will face a one-year prison term or a fine of 100,000 shekels. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the Ministerial Committee on Legislation and Law Enforcement will convene this week and formulate the details relating to the enforcement of the law. The law will be brought before the Knesset for approval next week.

At the beginning of the cabinet session, the ministers were briefed on yesterday's riots at the Erez checkpoint by the chief of staff and the head of the Shin Bet. It was reported that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] was behind the disturbances and had incited the rioters. Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq stated that the criticism which had been leveled against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] was unjustified since the IDF soldiers had acted with great restraint yesterday, thus preventing the situation from deteriorating even further.

The Meretz ministers, particularly Yosi Sarid, asserted that the Palestinian policemen who fired at IDF troops should be severely punished but also noted that it was the Palestinian police which eventually restored calm. Minister Sarid also said that one could sympathize with the residents of the Gaza Strip, who were virtually starving.

Trans-Jericho Road Closed to Israeli Traffic

TA1707191094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Ilan Biran, the commander of the Central Command, has ordered that the road crossing Jericho be closed to Israeli traffic for security reasons. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Israeli traffic will be directed to the Jericho bypass road for 24 hours. An announcement will be issued on the reopening of the trans-Jericho road.

Shaykh Yasin Supports Peace, Condemns Terror

TA1707165994 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Today, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin signed a declaration stating that he supports the peace process and condemns acts of terrorism against innocent people. Knesset Member [MK] Talib al-Sani' met with Shaykh Yasin, who is imprisoned at the Ashmoret jail, today. Our correspondent Hadas Steif heard MK al-Sani' as he left the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Steif] At noon today, MK Talib al-Sani' met with Ahmad Yasin at the Ashmoret jail. At the meeting, Shaykh Yasin signed a two-clause declaration he deposited with MK al-Sani'.

[Al-Sani'] Following are the two clauses: a just peace, which will also guarantee rights; and opposition to hurting the innocent. This is his position and declaration.

[Steif] What did he say about the incident at the Erez roadblock this morning?

[Al-Sani'] He said this was a very tragic and grievous incident resulting from the pressure to which the Palestinian residents are subjected, because despite all the talk about peace, the real situation on the ground has not changed.

[Steif] Did he say anything about his release?

[Al-Sani'] He believes that this is preordained and that what God decrees is what ultimately happens. He said that he acted as he did because he believes in his nation's right to resist occupation and that his people will be liberated in due course.

[Steif] What did he say about the murdered soldier, Ilan Sa'adon?

[Al-Sani'] He said he does not know where Sa'adon is buried and that regardless of the matter of his release from jail, he would consider it a religious and moral duty to help Sa'adon's family with any information he might have, but he cannot help. He appealed to the Prison Service to allow [Hamas member] Muhammad Shuraytah to be released from jail. Shuraytah, who was directly responsible [for Sa'adon's murder], has expressed his readiness to help, and he can obtain the information necessary to locate the site where Sa'adon is buried. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1505 GMT on 17 July carries a related report on al-Sani's meeting with Shaykh Yasin, adding that "Shaykh Yasin has refused to sign a commitment to refrain from engaging in terror, but according to al-Sani', he supports a just peace and is prepared to declare his readiness to refrain from harming innocent people."]

Justice Minister Pledges To Pursue Pollard Release

TA1707164994 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Justice Minister David Liba'i said tonight that each day Jonathan Pollard remains in a U.S. prison is superfluous. In a meeting with Pollard's wife Esther, Liba'i promised to pursue the efforts to secure her husband's release. Our correspondent Hadar Vismonsky reports:

[Begin Vismonsky recording] [passage omitted] The minister briefed Mrs. Pollard on his meeting with U.S. Secretary of Justice Janet Reno, stressing, however, that the decision is not up to him. [passage omitted]

Liba'i promised his guest to recommend to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that he meet with her soon. Esther Pollard left the Justice Ministry smiling. [end recording]

Savir Comments on Peace Talks, Christopher Visit

TA1807104894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] The director general of the Foreign Ministry, Uri Savir, says after the dramatic breakthrough in the peace process there is a need to concentrate on details which may lengthen negotiations. He said the dynamics in the Middle East had changed. Once extremists elements called the tune. Now when there is progress with one party, another party joins the process, Savir said. On some economic issues, there could be joint talks with the Jordanians and Palestinians.

As for the Christopher visit and talks with Syria, Israel is prepared to make progress with any willing party. We hope Syria will conclude that direct talks with Israel are preferable, Savir concluded.

Study Doubts Option for U.S. Presence on Golan

TA1607182594 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 8 July 94 p 21

[Article by Shlomo Naqdimon: "Americans on the Golan?"]

[Text] Here is a not-impossible scenario: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher manages to extricate the Syrian-Israeli negotiations from their current stalemate.

Al-Asad expresses his readiness for full peace and Rabin agrees to a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Intensive negotiations begin under a U.S. umbrella. A peace treaty is formulated at the conclusion of the protracted discussions, which more or less conforms to the model of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

The catch is in the clause dealing with "security arrangements." Rabin demands a continued IDF [Israel Defense Forces] presence in early warning installations on the first eastern mountain ridge line on the Golan Heights. Al-Asad categorically rejects this demand but is ready to permit the deployment of U.S. military forces to replace the IDF. Christopher says that the United States is prepared to station a unit that will be responsible for early warning activities as well as supervision.

While Syria and Israel are busy assessing the anticipated pros and cons of the American proposal, a furor ensues in Washington. The State Department's proposal runs counter to the U.S. policy to gradually trim down the number of U.S. peacekeeping units throughout the world.

The initial assumption was that the United States would make do with sending a small force whose duties would be slightly more comprehensive than the U.S. force in the Sinai Peninsula. Dispatching a unit that would be responsible for early warning would necessitate the stationing of a larger and more multioperational military force, and the lives of U.S. soldiers could be put in danger.

Everyone agrees that the risks facing a U.S. military force on the Golan Heights are less than those in Bosnia, Somalia, or Lebanon. But U.S. soldiers would definitely face mortal danger if their mission was extended beyond a well-defined peacekeeping task.

Is such a scenario possible? Is it possible for a Syrian-Israeli peace agreement not to be implemented due to U.S. opposition to the stationing of some sort of military force on the Golan Heights?

This issue is now being examined in a new research study, "An American Military Force on the Golan Heights as a Component in Security Arrangements," which was edited by Dr. Dore Gold, head of the American foreign policy and defense project at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies.

Even senior army officers and civilian researchers who support a withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for peace say in the study that Israel must remain in the position where it can "reoccupy the Golan Heights and more," in the event of any changes in Syria's policies following the reaching of a peace treaty. In addition, Syria must be obligated to reduce the size of its army and pull it out of any areas from where it could threaten Israel.

[Naqdimon] Dr. Gold, will Syria accept these demands?

[Gold] The security issue is the Achilles heel of any agreement with Syria. The study assumes that in the framework of security arrangements, Syria will prefer a U.S. presence over that of an Israeli force, and also attach conditions to such an agreement.

In the negotiations over a withdrawal on the Golan Heights, Israel will demand to retain the same early warning mechanisms it has now, albeit after recognizing Syria's sovereignty over the areas in which these mechanisms are placed. The early warning installations provide Israel with comprehensive, around-the-clock information about developments deep inside Syria. Any substitute for these unique early warning capabilities would be vastly inferior.

[Naqdimon] Is there any possibility of Syria acceding to Israel's demand to retain its early warning stations on the Golan Heights?

[Gold] There is only a slim chance. The Syrians may also play it smart and demand to establish identical early warning installations which would enable them to monitor developments deep inside Israel, and thus gain access to intelligence they never even dreamed of receiving.

[Naqdimon] Would an American deterrent force be the answer then?

[Gold] While the stationing of a U.S. force, whether of an offensive or a defensive nature, has its advantages, there are also numerous drawbacks to this as far as Israel is concerned. Thus, for example, such a situation may be detrimental in the event of Israel having to go on the offensive against a Syrian attack.

This also goes against our national defense concept, the foundations of which were laid by David Ben-Gurion. During Yitzhaq Rabin's first term as prime minister he also said that "no army can be a viable substitute for the IDF in maintaining Israel's security."

[Naqdimon] But this concept was deviated from during the Gulf War in 1991?

[Gold] During the Gulf War, American teams manned Patriot missile batteries, and we were never allowed to forget it. In the course of an argument over the loan guarantees, former President Bush, being intentionally caustic, said that U.S. soldiers put themselves in danger for Israel's sake. They will hold this against us forever.

[Naqdimon] Perhaps we can copy the Sinai model on the Golan Heights?

[Gold] In Sinai it is a different story. The minimum role entrusted to the U.S. battalion in the Sinai Peninsula in particular and the MFO in general, does not constitute a direct source of security. The 2,200 soldiers which make up the MFO, of whom 800 are Americans, are not equipped or deployed to stop an offensive. They do not engage in around-the-clock early warning activities and merely conduct a periodic supervision of the arrangements in the demilitarized zones. Incidentally, the U.S. force in the Sinai was also cut back.

[Naqdimon] What, then, should be the role of a U.S. military force on the Golan?

[Dore] The research describes a situation in which negotiations on security arrangements on the Golan are deadlocked and the way out is placing a U.S. force with much a more significant role than the one in the Sinai. I believe that such a development is not desirable in terms of U.S.-Israeli relations. It contains a possible conflict of interests on deterrence.

For example, if after a peace agreement is signed, the Syrians change their deployment in a way that would cause alarm in Israel, it will want to move, but the Americans will want to hold it down. Such things have happened: In 1970 Egypt moved surface-to-air missiles to the Suez Canal, with the Russians' permission. This violated the status quo, but the United States rejected this claim because it feared an Israeli reaction.

[Naqdimon] Can an American force be a deterring factor?

[Dore] The deterrence value of an American force on the Golan will not be as significant as the one stationed in Korea today or in Germany during the Cold War. There, the United States had a military pact with the country it was protecting. On the Golan, it would be a neutral peacekeeper, which will significantly diminish its deterrence value .

[Naqdimon] Is it possible that an agreement will not be signed eventually due to a U.S. opposition to deploy troops?

[Dore] The Americans are currently reconsidering their involvement in areas of tension around the world. In the wake of the cuts in the defense budget, last May the administration drafted new policy guidelines which pose tough terms that need to be met for American peacekeepers to be stationed there.

The U.S. national defense strategy aims at a U.S. ability to simultaneously deal with two regional conflicts of the scope of the Gulf War. Former Defense Secretary Les Aspin stated that the deployment of an American brigade on the Golan Heights will require the preparation of almost an entire division, which would heavily burden the reduced U.S. Army. Anthony Lake, President Clinton's adviser on national security, said in this respect: "We will not hesitate cutting ourselves out of peacekeeping missions if it becomes imperative for us to concentrate our forces against an enemy in a major conflict."

There is no doubt that a demand for a task force that would extend beyond reasonable supervision will meet serious opposition in the United States. Congress will oppose assigning U.S. troops to posts that could expose them to harm, including death.

[Naqdimon] How should Israel act in case of such deadlock?

[Dore] It must not lose patience. Israel should in no way let go of means essential for its security. Also, it should not give them over to the Americans. Israel must insist on its security demands at all cost, even if an agreement is not attained.

Ambassador on Planned Meetings With Muslim Envoys

TA1807114194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Gad Ya'aqobi, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, briefed the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that following the reports on the political progress with Jordan, he had meetings scheduled over the next two weeks with 20 ambassadors from countries, mostly Muslim states, with which Israel had no diplomatic relations.

Ambassador Ya'aqobi said these meetings would help the participants get acquainted and facilitate the coordination of future contacts which could develop into a political dialogue.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Ambassador Ya'aqobi told the committee that UN institutions had decided to invest $400 million in infrastructure projects and the educational system inside the Gaza Strip as well as Judaea and Samaria over the coming year. This constitutes an increase of over $100 million as compared to last year's budget.

Defense Industries Exports Rise 20 Percent in 1993

*TA1507152494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
15 Jul 94 p A6*

[Report by defense correspondent Sharon Sade]

[Text] Israel's defense exports grew by 20 percent in 1993, despite a slump in the sale of weapons and warfare materiel in world markets. According to defense elements, the total defense industries' foreign orders obtained in 1993 stood at about $1.8 billion, compared to about $1.5 billion in 1992. The defense industries' total sales—which reflect the actual delivery of products and systems to customers—stood at about $1.4 billion in 1993, almost equal to the 1992 total.

The 1993 sales focused mainly on exports to the Far East, Asia, and East Europe. This trend will apparently be upheld in the future, although sales to existing markets and penetration into new markets, such as Oceania, have improved.

A defense element has said that the growth of defense exports is an impressive achievement for the defense industries and the Defense Ministry's Defense Sales Department. He claimed that Israel was probably the only country in the world that has been able, through diverse marketing techniques, to increase its orders at a time when the volume of international procurement has shrunk. He added that the level of defense industry orders will remain stable in the future.

Israel maintains defense ties with over 70 countries worldwide. Its sales grew by about 75 percent between

1975 and 1992, although international sales dropped by about 45 percent during that period, a trend which is still prevalent.

The cumulative orders of Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI], the largest Israeli arms exporter, stand at about $2.5 billion. The company's 1993 sales stood at $1.45 billion, 75 percent of which were exports.

The following are IAI's major transactions and sales for 1993:

- —U.S. Army ordered in the amount of about $230 million for the production of systems and platforms in the framework of a transaction for the supply of Hunter UAV's [unmanned aerial vehicles] in which the IAI is a subcontractor for the American TRW company.
- —The sale of Elta Electronic Industries' systems for P-3 aircraft to Australia in the sum of about $30 million. A next-stage $40-million transaction was signed a few days ago (according to a FLIGHT magazine report).
- —The supply of night-vision systems for U.S. Marines' Cobra helicopters in the initial sum of about $32 million.
- —India's approximately $10-million order for laser-guided bombs, according to foreign reports (the American DEFENSE NEWS weekly).
- —Contracts related to the development of Arrow antitactical ballistic missile (ATBM), totaling about $50 million.
- —Signed contracts for the sale of Barak missiles to foreign customers in cooperation with REFA'EL [Armament Development Authority] (as part of multiyear transactions) in the sum of tens of millions of dollars, out of transactions totaling $200 to $300 million. According to foreign reports, Barak missiles have been sold to the Singapore and Chilean Navies, as well as to the Israeli Navy. (Reported by JANE'S).
- —The sale of expertise, consultancy, and products totalling hundreds of millions of dollars to foreign customers in the framework of multiyear transactions, which include—according to foreign reports—China, India, and South Africa.

The Israel Military Industries [IMI] exports totaled $250 million in 1993, and the amount constitutes about 60 percent of the company's total sales. The IMI's most significant contracts in 1993 were the sales of ammunition and equipment to Romania and Estonia in excess of $100 million.

REFA'EL signed new contracts worth about $150 million in 1993: about $80 million in orders for different types of missiles, including Barak naval missiles and advanced Python air-to-air missiles; about $30 million in U.S. orders for Popeye air-to-surface missiles; about $30 million in orders for armored vehicle reinforcement systems and upgrading; about $20 million in orders for electronic warfare systems. REFA'EL's total 1993 exports stood at about $100 million.

Elisra, a Tadiran subsidiary specializing in electronic warfare systems, concluded 1993 with new contracts totaling only about $40 million, while its total 1993 sales stood at $100 million.

Elbit reported about $230-million in revenues from the sale of military systems and products in 1993—an 18-percent rise from the previous year. The most substantial transaction reported by Elbit in 1993 was the upgrading of about 100 MiG-21 aircraft for the Romanian Air Force at a multiyear total of about $300 million. In real terms, the deal resulted in a mere $12-million in revenues in 1993.

Paper: Death of Prisoner 'Stains' Leadership

TA1807104194 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM TIMES in English 15 Jul 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Death Under Interrogation Must Be Investigated"]

[Text] Last week, a Palestinian from Gaza died while under interrogation by the Palestinian police in a Gaza detention center. The causes of his death and the reason for his arrest and interrogation are not yet known. However, regardless of the reasons why he was in custody, his tragic death while under interrogation is unacceptable and is a sick reminder of the ugly days of the Israeli occupation.

Palestinians fought hard to expose Israel's torture of Palestinian detainees under interrogation. When a Palestinian was arrested, interrogated, tortured and killed, Palestinians would appeal to the international community for its intervention. International human rights organizations were regularly mobilized to defend Palestinian human rights and guarantee protection of the Palestinian civilian population under occupation.

However, that was occupation, and no one expected any better from a military occupation force. This time the detainee was arrested, interrogated, allegedly tortured and died while in a Palestinian detention center. This incident is absolutely unacceptable. As a result, we demand that an independent investigative committee be established to determine the reasons for this death. The findings of this committee should be comprehensive and conclusive and be made public. If the committee incriminates any person or persons, they should be held responsible. Such a matter should not be taken lightly. Certainly the Palestinian people who struggled hard against detention, tortures and executions will not accept these same practices in their own state.

Most definitely, this should not have happened in the first place. Since it did happen, the Palestinian authorities should learn from it and guarantee that it will not reoccur under any circumstances. It only takes one incident to give a people or a government a bad name, and this incident indeed has stained the Palestinians and their leadership.

We are in the process of rebuilding our country, not destroying it. Arrests, interrogation and what follows must operate under the concept of due process. Every Palestinian carries the title to this basic of human rights. The Palestinian people should be assured of their safety now, not be relieving fears of the occupation.

Palestinian human rights organizations should quickly mobilize to expose the circumstances of this incident, demand that those responsible be held accountable and struggle to ensure that this is not repeated. If we do not move now to face this frightening development, stopping future abuses at the hands of the authorities will be an impossible task.

King Accepts Invitation to U.S. Summit With Rabin

JN1507173494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jul 94

[From the "60 Minutes" program]

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn has accepted an invitation extended to him by U.S. President Bill Clinton to visit Washington on 25 July. A similar invitation was addressed to the Israeli prime minister, who has also accepted it.

President Clinton's invitation comes in the wake of a U.S. initiative launched by President Clinton during his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn at the White House on 22 June. The U.S. initiative is part of President Clinton's commitment to a comprehensive peace, as well as the need to support Jordan economically and militarily so it can continue to play its pioneering and important role in the peace process.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has told Jordan television that His Majesty King Husayn has accepted the invitation, since it is linked directly with the advancement of a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace.

His royal highness said this meeting is an important step on a long, arduous road to achieve a peace accepted by future generations. He said Jordan thinks achieving peace stems from a commitment to all items on the common agenda signed on 14 September 1993 and the need to maintain the unity and integrity of that agenda. [passage omitted]

King Says No Treaty Without 'Our Full Rights'

JN1507193894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Report by Bashshar Jarrar from the "60 Mintues" program—italicized passages are recorded]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has emphasized that Jordan will not sign a peace treaty until we get all our rights and tackle every issue and every dimension included in the agenda.

He said this yesterday during a field tour of the Fourth Mechanized Division.

[Husayn] *We hope we will be able one day to rely on our Arab homeland as we used to. Is the United States behind us? No. Do we have the Gulf alliance behind us? No. Then this is the country where—God forbid—plots against the Arab nation are likely be implemented at its expense. By God, this is [words indistinct]. Therefore, we will begin the march [word indistinct]. Once again, the intention was to sign a peace treaty and then begin talks. No peace treaty will be signed until we get our full rights, and all issues and dimensions included in the agenda are tackled concerning land and water. The issue of land is not something easy—it is not easy, even if it is an inch of land, but it is practically larger than the Gaza area."*

His majesty said Jordan has endured more than anyone else in its long struggle, and, praise be to God, it was able to rescue itself from the plots that not only targeted Palestine, but also Jordan. He said we supported our brothers in every cause and test.

[Husayn] *We used to say that aggression on any part of the Arab homeland is an aggression against all of us. We signed the Joint Defense Pact—we signed it, expecting other members of the Arab League to come to our rescue if we needed. When the crisis [of June 1967] came, we handed the command of this army, which is the dearest thing on earth, we handed the fate of this country to an Arab Egyptian command at that time. We took part in the battle to the best of our ability. The result was what we all know. We are still experiencing its results.*

His majesty said the latest developments in the region, and the shocks witnessed by the Arab homeland, have influenced all things we used to fear and which we are experiencing now.

If things go in the right direction, Israel will become a drop in a sea, but we should know how to act, and how to reach [word indistinct]. Even if this agenda was approved and if there was a readiness to discuss the agenda in detail, we would have moved ahead, but they had [word indistinct]. Concerning Syria—the Israelis are ready to withdraw from the Golan. Concerning Lebanon—they are ready to withdraw from every inch of the Lebanese land in return for security there. How to implement this is what is being discussed at present. I only came into the picture of these details when I was in Washington and when I was acquainted with...[pauses] we are the ones who were seeking coordination [words indistinct] on the Palestinian level, on the Arab level, and on all levels. But it seems to me that coordination meant we should proceed as they want and at the time they choose. It is our right to do the impossible so our Armed Forces, God willing, will be equipped and able to play its role in protecting the homeland, the aspirations, objectives, and the nation, and in contributing in any additional role it can play in the international arena.

King Addresses Army on Peace, Rights

JN1607111994 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 16 Jul 94 p 19

[Text] Amman, PETRA—His Majesty King Husayn, the supreme commander of the Armed forces, visited the Fourth Mechanized Division at noon on Thursday [14 July]. He was accompanied by his majesty's military secretary His Highness Prince Talal Bin Muhammad.

His majesty was welcomed on arrival by Staff General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Division commander and its ranking officers.

His majesty the king was briefed on the tasks carried out by the Division.

His majesty then addressed the Division officers. He said: I always think of you. One feels pride his entire life for belonging to you. We always uphold lofty slogans and we have big hopes, God willing, in this good country which offered much, has always been in the forefront, and has been the first on the path of good. This country has never hesitated to come to the rescue of its brothers in the big homeland, and has sustained the burdens of what the nation experienced. This country has goodness, amity, and much nobleness. This country has a right to live. It is our duty to do the impossible so that our Armed forces, God willing, will be equipped and capable of pursuing the duty of protecting the homeland, the aspirations, objectives, and the nation and in carrying out any additional role in the international arena.

I believe that matters should be disclosed to the people because there is no reason or justification for keeping them in the dark with respect to our situation and circumstances and with respect to the perils we feel engulf us from all sides. Thanks be to God, our people are a source of pride, and our heads will remain high thanks to their maturity and cohesion. In reality, the simple citizen in this good country, in the village, the city, and in any position, sometimes shows more awareness than the politicians who make calculations before taking any step.

No country has endured as much as this country. We shared our food with our relatives and brothers. Thanks be to God, we managed to save them from the scheme which not only targeted Palestine but also Jordan. We supported our brothers on all issues, in every field, and in every test.

What happened in 1967 is an example of this. Not one of us imagined that results would be any better than what they were. This is so because there was no preparation, no arrangements, and no real building of the Arab force as it should be.

We signed the Collective Arab Defense Pact. We signed it expecting Arab League members to come to our rescue when needed. When the battle took place, we handed over the army, the most cherished thing in this life, we handed over the fate of this country to an Egyptian Arab command at the time. We waged the battle with all our capabilities. The result is the one we know and whose consequences we are still experiencing. We tried to regain all the land, not only for us but also for its owners so that they may choose their course later on in implementing UN Security Council Resolution 242, including Jerusalem, and all the territories that are cherished by all of us, with the possibility of carrying out some slight amendments on the armistice line that existed before the war on the basis that these amendments be reciprocal if this meets the two sides approval.[sentence as published] Otherwise, the same armistice line will be adopted. In peace times, Jeruslem should be a symbol of peace. This means that holy places should not remain under the control of one party or become part of the political game. Only Almighty God's sovereignty should prevail over Jerusalem.

I tried the impossible. We continued to do our best. We were trying to build this country despite many difficulties and problems. Then came the 1974 summit resolution. For my part, I spared no effort to explain the dangers and dimensions. The PLO was recognized as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. Despite this, there are people who are not happy because we are saying that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people. I said we will keep on talking about this issue until the people decide on something else or take another path. We were among the first to stand at the Baghdad summit—which we were glad to attend—and hoped that our Arab nation would help itself build a power that enables it to handle the situation it is facing and forget about the power of the other party. Then came the recent violent quake on the world level which totally changed the balances and the quake on the regional level in terms of the Gulf crisis. This crisis lead to everything we feared and what we are now facing. Divisions became part of reality, and we lost a power of our own—such as Arab money, revenues from Arab oil, not to mention the suffering of Iraq, which backed and supported us.

His Majesty said: As for the issue of peace, we started dealing with it from Madrid. Before we started, we met here on the homeland's level and discussed the dimensions of the issue. I believe the consensus was in the direction of peace. We supported the PLO and enabled it to go to Madrid. After Madrid, things continued until we were surprised with the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. After that, our brothers continued their march, as owners of a cause and with their leadership as their sole and legitimate representative, toward tackling their issues.

His majesty said: Through your endeavors, determination, and sincerity, the Armed Forces are doing the impossible. They have a good supply of weapons to protect the homeland, its security, and its people from dangers. However, if I want to be fair with myself and with you, I must say that I am not satisfied with the situation. We need a tank that can face the tank on the opposite side in terms of its gun and efficiency. We need artillery. We need an air force that can confront the opposite side. We practically need an army. We need armed forces that are equipped with modern weapons. They must be reorganized to suit the new reality. At the same time, we do have something; that is, the human element, thanks be to God. However, peace is an essential requirement. There is also the foreign debt which is a result of our involvement in this issue and as a result of an Arab commitment to support us.

As far as the issue of al-'Aqabah, frankly speaking, if there had been an alternative, I would not have agreed on the inspection of goods on the ground. We are suffering great losses. But at least this inspection on the ground eases the burden on us. We are besieged from all directions. Even the issue of our brothers in the North—the water issue—became a basic issue. We have been talking about this issue and about building dams for years. Frankly my brothers, it seems that if the PLO and the Palestinian leadership did not gain what it was supposed to gain, then this country would have collapsed, one way or another, as a result of these pressures.

The possibilities of an alternative homeland exist and there is no one to support us. The entire Arab region is open for the enemies. Therefore, we must stand fast and demonstrate endurance. What happened, happened. We met in Madrid.

We met in Washington. We signed an agenda on topics and issues only after the Palestinians signed their surprise package. Each of these topics are important elements in the process of attaining peace and should be tackled. Peace is not peace at any price. Peace is the peace that gives us our rights, restores our land and water, and allows this people to live in peace, tranquility, and without fear. Perhaps the difference between us and the people who lived west of here in the fourties is a big difference. We used to think of them as an industrious European people. By God, we have capabilities and potential. We have educated and mature young people. We just need the opportunity so that we can forge miracles. If things proceed in the right direction, Israel will become a drop in the sea, but we should know how to act and how to demarcate our borders.

Even if this agenda was approved and if there was a readiness to discuss the agenda in detail, we would have moved ahead, but they had other objectives. Concerning Syria,—the Israelis are ready to withdraw from the Golan. Concerning Lebanon—they are ready to withdraw from every inch of Lebanese land in return for security there. How to implement this is what is being discussed now. I only came into the picture of these details when I was in Washington where I was acquainted with... [pauses] We were behind coordination on the Palestinian level, on the Arab level, and on all levels. But it seems to me that coordination meant we should proceed as they want and at the time they choose.

We hope we will be able one day to rely on our Arab homeland. Is the United States behind us? No. Do we have the Gulf alliance behind us? No. Then this is the country where—God forbid—plots against the Arab nation are likely to be implemented at its expense. By God, this is neither fair nor just. That's why we want to begin this long march.

Once again, the trend was: Sign peace treaties and then start talks. We said: No peace treaty will be signed until we get our full rights, and all issues and dimensions included in the agenda are tackled concerning land and water. Brothers, the issue of the land is not something easy, even if it is an inch of land. But it is practically larger than the Gaza area. Before and after 1967, they started to remove the security barrier and used to advance with every rocket-launching incident. This is the situation at the present time. We sought to discuss the cancellation of the debts and armament. They told us, as frankly as possible: Negotiate, and when you meet at the highest levels, we will then discuss the cancellation of debts.

Brothers, with respect to armament, when one negotiates, one meets with the other side, and confronts it. Men are not afraid of meeting. We also fear that conspiracies will be concocted against the survival of this country.

In short, this is the stage we live. We ask almighty God to grant success to all.

His majesty then visited a naval unit and was briefed on the tasks it carries out. His majesty met with the members of the naval unit, and thanked them for their efforts while they asked God to grant him long life.

King Defends Decision to Meet Rabin

JN1607182594 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has stressed that we are working to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution and that this country has the right to defend its rights and seek to regain them. The king's statements were made during a field trip, which his majesty made to the command of the Southern Military Region.

[Begin recording] [Jordan Television Correspondent Bashshar Jarrar] In the second speech His Majesty King Husayn has made to the members of the Arab Legion after his speech to the Council of Ministers and the House of Representatives, His Majesty King Husayn stressed that his majesty's decision to meet with the Israeli prime minister is in fulfillment of a national duty and a sacrifice for the homeland.

[Husayn] In fact, I did not hesitate for a minute. When any Jordanian individual meets with any Israeli, the Jordanian will be representing Jordan and the Israeli will be representing Israel. Here, at this stage, we are responsible for our country's present and future. Personally, and it is by instinct, I sacrifice myself to all of you and to this country. Men are not afraid of meeting men. We have not been afraid in the past, and we will not be afraid now or the future. Our right is known. We will defend it and try to regain it. We seek to establish a just, honorable peace which can be accepted by all and under which they can live.

[Jarrar] Based on the ability of Jordan—leadership and people—to face challenges, Husayn voiced confidence in the competence of the Jordanian individual to face the challenges of the forthcoming crucial stage.

[Husayn] There may be some people who say we are afraid that we will be devoured by others. We are not that easy. In the 1940's, there may have been a big difference between us and Israel. They were a European people who had gone through various experiences and were qualified. Thank God, the citizens of this country, in terms of their education and abilities and in terms of what they have achieved—because our concentration has always been on the individual—are at the level that will enable them to face any challenge and face any new reality with competence and ability. The question is not if this country can be easily devoured by anyone. On the contrary, if we have the opportunity and if the picture changes, then we may be able to achieve, with the little we have. In the past we achieved what was called a miracle, due to our steadfastness, firmness, and progress. If there are more opportunities and broader horizons, I think we will make progress, achieve more, and arrive at a level that will make each of us assured about his present and future, and that of future generations.

[Jarrar] Reviewing the phases of the peace process, His Majesty King Husayn recalled the Second National Congress decision to activate the charter, which stresses the contents of the Constitution providing for plurality and political participation.

[Husayn] We then held a nationwide meeting representing all active groups in this country. We discussed available options. Our trend was collective. Because this is a democratic country, and because its children are free to express their views, I say the overwhelming majority favored dealing with the new facts. Yet, some views and stands may differ from this trend.

[Jarrar] Since the overwhelming majority has adopted the proposed option, we, his majesty the king said, should regard our national interests as top priority.

[Husayn] We are working in broad daylight and in the sunlight. We are working to attain a comprehensive, just solution. We constantly call for this. So far, we have suffered a great deal. However, the time has come for us to pay attention to our country and its present and future. Our country is threatened and besieged. In this country, there is plenty of nobility, genuine Arabism, and a real commitment to the Arab nation's interests. This is a country of free, good, and chaste ones. This is a country of sacrifice, manhood, and men. It will be a pity if this country ends up with anybody peddling his schemes at its expense. If this country comes to an end, it has nobody to back it. If it comes to an end, God forbid, the danger will extend to include the entire Arab homeland.

[Jarrar] Because we are all partners in responsibility, King Husayn called for further cohesion and awareness by his one Jordanian family.

[Husayn] Jordan is not Husayn only. Jordan is everyone of its children, in terms of awareness, honesty, and resolve. God willing, heads will remain high and banners flying high. May God grant us success.

[Jarrar] Earlier today, His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, paid a field tour to the command of the southern military region. His majesty was welcomed upon arrival by Staff General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the commander of the southern military region, and a number of senior officers. His majesty the supreme commander met with the officers, NCO's, and other ranks in the southern military region. He shook hands with them and thanked them for their efforts. [end recording]

Crown Prince Hasan on King Husayn-Rabin Meeting

JN1607181394 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has described the upcoming tripartite meeting in Washington between His Majesty King Husayn, the U.S. President, and the Israeli prime minister as an important meeting emphasizing Jordan's sovereign rights over its land and water. He said this after he chaired a meeting of the Water, Energy, and Environment Committee, which was attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, at the Foreign Ministry today.

More details in our correspondent's report:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab] Your Highness, how do you describe the expected meeting between his majesty the king and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin? What do you expect?

[Hasan] I think, as I said yesterday, that this meeting is an important step on an arduous and long road, with continuous efforts by the technical committees. This morning we met with the technical delegation on water, energy, and the environment. I would like to say that, practically, water, energy, and the environment are interlinked, as security and borders are interlinked. Today we are speaking about Jordan's return to practice its sovereignty over its borders, land, and what is hidden in this land, when we speak about environment or surface water. I think this meeting is a symbolic and important meeting. I think that Jordan has become part of the regional events today and a focus of attention, in addition to the expected tour by U.S. secretary of state who will visit Damascus and the occupied territories to follow Palestinian affairs.

[Correspondent Caroline Faraj] Your Highness, will you explain to us the results of this meeting in Washington on the other tracks, and on moving them forward?

[Hasan] As you know, we believe the trend that began in Madrid is a bilateral one, but is a multiple trend at the same time. When I say multiple, naturally, there will be no peace in this part of the world without effective and independent participation by the concerned governments and parties. Naturally, there will be no peace without a comprehensive view. I think the meeting that will be held on the highest level is being held within the framework of U.S. contacts, as I said. These contacts are with Damascus, on the one hand, and the dialogue with the Palestinian brothers, on the other. But what does this mean, what is the reaction, and what is the effect? I think the Jordanian agenda should be read well by all citizens so they know that the agenda items represent a return of Jordanian sovereignty over fields that are dear to all of us.

[Dhiyab] Are there Jordanian conditions for convening this meeting?

[Hasan] It is very clear that Jordan expects from the international community and the United States a recognition that Jordan has endured the Arab-Israeli conflict for decades, as well as the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the repercussions of this conflict. Jordan will not be satisfied with reactions but will take the initiative to search for peace as long as there is a readiness by the United States and other international parties to recognize Jordan's position and role within the framework of Jordan's sovereignty over its land.

[Correspondent Maha al-Sha'ir, in English] Over the decades, Jordan did suffer due to the Palestinian problem, and also in the past few years Jordan has been facing difficulties. Do you think now it is the time the difficult days are ending?

[Hasan, in English] I believe that the search for peace through democracy and full participation of all concerned is not for the fainthearted, so I don't think difficulties are about to end, but I think at least a context is emerging, and a work program is emerging to which we have to commit ourselves. As his majesty has said more than once, it is not a question of peace at any price, but it is a question of a struggle, of waging peace over the months, and possibly the immediate years ahead.

[Dhiyab] His highness today chaired a meeting of the water, energy, and environment group in the bilateral Jordanian-Israeli track that will begin in Wadi al-'Arabah to the north of al-'Aqabah next Monday [18 July]. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and a number of ministers. A comprehensive, accurate, and detailed review was made of the subjects that will be under negotiation, as well as a full study for alternatives and what is expected from the other side. His Highness Prince Hasan emphasized at the meeting that while engaged in this process, Jordan believes, as a firm constant, that it will not accept peace at any price. The peace Jordan wants is a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region. This requires great and highly accurate negotiating efforts. [end recording]

Al-Majali Briefs Cabinet on 'Historic' U.S. Summit

JN1607151194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] The Council of Ministers met this morning in a session chaired by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. It heard a report from the prime minister on the latest developments in the peace process, including the visit His Majesty King Husayn will make to Washington on 25 July at the invitation of U.S. President Bill Clinton, and the tripartite meeting between his majesty, President Clinton, and the Israeli prime minister.

The Council of Ministers emphasized the historic importance of this development, and considers it an opportunity to support and accelerate the peace process and to emphasize maintaining the Jordanian-Israeli joint agenda with all its items.

Following the session, Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs and information minister, held a news conference, in which he said:

[Begin al-'Anani recording] The Council of Ministers this morning heard a report from the prime minister on the recent developments that have accelerated events, crowned by His Majesty King Husayn's acceptance of President Clinton's invitation to visit the United States, and then to hold a tripartite meeting between President Clinton, his majesty the king, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

After hearing this report, the Council of Ministers emphasized the great historic importance of this latest development and the visit His Majesty King Husayn will make to the United States. The council considers it a chance to support and expedite the peace process, and to emphasize what His Highness Prince Hasan said yesterday about the importance of maintaining the integrity of all items of the agenda signed by Jordan and Israel on 14 September 1993. Likewise, the basic Jordanian role in the peace process should be recognized, and Jordan should be in an economic and military position that enables it to play its effective role in the peace process and for the stability of this region as a whole.

The Council of Ministers also heard a detailed report presented by Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace negotiations, who will lead the Jordanian delegation to the bilateral negotiations in Wadi al-'Arabah and the tripartite negotiations that will be held in the Dead Sea area. The Council of Ministers heard this report in detail, and this subject was discussed and appropriate decisions were adopted.

The Jordanian delegation to the tripartite negotiations that will be held in the Dead Sea area was formed, and will be led by Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah.

These are the most important issues tackled on the subjects dealing with His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the United States on 25 July, and the bilateral and tripartite negotiations that will begin on 18 and 20 July, respectively. [end recording]

Previews Talks With Israel

NC1807065594 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, in Amman, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, from the "Dialogue From Afar" program on 18 July—live or recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Bilateral negotiations between Jordan and Israel will begin today in the border area north of al-'Aqabah. We have with us now Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al- Majali. Good morning and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Majali] Good morning.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Could you tell us about the subjects to be discussed during today's talks between you and the Israeli side?

[Al-Majali] Today's talks are part of the negotiations held in Washington. A committee was formed in Washington to discuss the border, security, water, energy, and environment issues. It was thought that it would be better for this committee to meet on location at the border dividing Jordan and Israel. Thus, Jordan agreed to moving the negotiations from Washington to the region, to the border zone in particular. This is because it is absurd for the negotiators not to see for themselves the facts of the matter on the ground. The negotiations will begin in all seriousness to define a mechanism for the negotiations and set up committees and subcommittees to cover every subject so that the negotiating activity can proceed continuously and in a good atmosphere.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Naturally you have your own view on the issue. Could you tell us about it?

[Al-Majali] This territory was occupied by Israel after 1967 as a result of some border incursions here and there. The Israelis pushed the borderline toward our side. We are demanding the restoration of this territory, which is a vast area, perhaps as big as the entire Gaza Strip. It is entirely Jordanian land. Now the Israelis have accepted the principle of negotiations and agreed to bringing the committee to the region. The border agreed upon by both of us is the one that existed during the time of British mandate over Palestine and Transjordan. So we hope that once this subject ripens among the parties concerned, various maps will begin to surface and an agreement will be reached so that the border demarcation can begin on the ground immediately. The process could start with a [word indistinct] followed by implementation.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What does Israel think of this view?

[Al-Majali] What we know is that they have agreed to this principle and we will sit down together to put it into effect.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Your Excellency Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, what about your upcoming meeting with the U.S. secretary of state and the Israeli foreign minister?

[Al-Majali] His majesty the king was completely explicit during his visit to Washington and also in his recent remarks. When we feel that meetings between the Israeli and Jordanian political leaders would be useful and when we feel that these meetings are well prepared and useful, we will always be ready to hold such meetings. As his majesty the king said, we work without ambiguity or secrecy. This meeting will be held under the umbrella of the tripartite U.S.-Jordanian-Israeli meeting and will take place on 20 July, God willing.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Your Excellency the Prime Minister, what is the significance of holding the talks in public between you and Israel on Jordanian land?

[Al-Majali] We have always held negotiations in public, apart from their secret parts. When we felt there were enough signs of determination to advance toward the peace process and when we found out that they [the Israelis] approved of the border demarcation committee, it was agreed to transfer the negotiations from Washington to this area.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Your Excellency the Prime Minister, can we consider that the upcoming summit between his majesty King Husayn of Jordan, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and U.S. President Bill Clinton on 25 July will be a real starting point to achieve real peace between Jordan and Israel?

[Al-Majali] This is what we hope to achieve. As you may note, the placing of the bilateral negotiations, which will take place in Wadi 'Arabah, the tripartite meeting on 20 July, and his majesty the king's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin under the auspices of the U.S. President clearly demonstrates the serious attitude of all the parties to marshal every effort to allow the peace process to keep moving. We also hope that this will encourage and support the process on the other Arab tracks—the Syrian-Israeli track and the Lebanese-Israeli track.

['Abd-al-Majid] This is what we hope. Can we say that the upcoming summit meeting might provide the momentum to advance the peace process on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks?

[Al-Majali] I believe this is true. Achieving any positive sign that contributes toward a successful peace process would serve all the tracks. Any Syrian-Israeli move that is accepted by the Syrian brothers would be in our interest. This also applies to the Lebanese track and to the Palestinian brothers. That is what we are doing for their benefit. So, any progress on any of the four Arab tracks represents a gain on the other tracks. It was agreed upon right from the start and during the previous coordination meetings that all the tracks are different in their nature. Consequently, movement on each track is also different.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Your Excellency the Jordanian Prime Minister, thank you very much.

[Al-Majali] You are welcome.

Al-'Anani, al-Tarawinah Hold New Conference

Al-'Anani on Security Issues

JN1607203194 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1900 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Jordan said his majesty the king's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on July 25th would boost and accelerate the Middle East peace process. Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani said the king and the Israeli prime minister would not sign a peace treaty in Washington. He warned that many would try to use the occasion according to their own agenda.

Dr. al-'Anani, who held a joint press conference with Jordan's Ambassador in Washington and its chief peace negotiator Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, stressed that Jordan would not sign a peace treaty with Israel and then negotiate its terms. They stressed that the borders under discussion are those between Jordan and Israel, and that they exclude the borders of the territories occupied by Israel in 1967.

The information minister said President Clinton was committed to helping Jordan economically and militarily, and that Jordan wanted to enhance its security, including comprehensive security.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Do you have any firm guarantees that the United State is going to offer debt relief the minute his majesty meets with Mr. Rabin?

[Al-'Anani] Well, first of all, these are two different questions. First of all, the principle, and secondly, the timing. On the principle, I think we in Jordan feel very strongly that President Clinton has committed himself to helping Jordan economically, either in the form of debt relief or in the form of certain, other types of aid. Yet, it was felt that when his majesty was in the United States during his last visit in the United States, President Clinton agreed with his majesty that, for instance, on the issue of debt relief that both heads of state would consult in order to agree on the proper timing to address the legislative authority in the United States on this particular issue. We feel that there is a strong commitment on the part of the United States that we feel rather assured of.

[Correspondent] Are you expecting rapid progress on borders or water? And when will that be announced?

[Al-'Anani] Well, it depends on what you mean by rapid progress. Rapid progress can be achieved if we agree to finish within two days certain aspects, one of them, of course, is the establishment of a border commission, and secondly, to agree on the modalities of the work of that commission, and, thirdly, to determine how to go about presenting the proper documents and maps for border delineation.

[Correspondent] Has there been any consultations with Syria since President Clinton first extended the invitation to King Husayn during his recent visit to Washington, and what do you make of the comments from Israel that a breakthrough with Syria is likely?

[Al-'Anani] What we know about developments in the Syrian track is what has been said either by Syrian officials or by American, or sometimes by Israeli officials. It seems that there is some sort of an agreement, first of all that the United States is very keen about achieving progress on the Syrian track, and secondly, that an attempt by Secretary Christopher to come to the area and try to invigorate the Syrian track, a position which Jordan, by the way, supports very much, especially what President Clinton said yesterday, that he believes in comprehensive peace and in the need to move all tracks ahead, and he made a very specific reference to the Syrian track. We believe that comprehensiveness of peace is an imperative requirement for that peace to be permanent and just. Otherwise, if you don't make comprehensive peace, an explosive situation might be created sometime in the future, something we are all trying to avoid at this junction.

[Correspondent] Is Jordan seeking any type of security guarantees from the United States, in addition to military aid?

[Al-'Anani] Well, you know, no, I don't think we are specifically asking for security guarantees from the United States on that particular matter, I mean. What we are seeking is to enhance Jordan's ability to maintain its own security. And by the way, when I talk about security, Jordan's concept of security means comprehensive security. It's not merely military, or arms, but you should talk about social and economic security that we need to enhance. You cannot, for instance...[pauses] sometimes the fragmentation of the peace process by giving more weight to one side at the expense of the other might be a cause also for insecurity. If we are going to draft a better future based on the relics and legacy of the peace process that is going on, I believe we should be comprehensive in our approach. [end recording]

More on News Conference

JN1607170994 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Report by political affairs correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab]

[Excerpts] In his joint news conference with Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation to the negotiations, Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani stressed the need to maintain the integrity of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda and to recognize Jordan's basic role. He said Jordan should be in an economic and military situation that enables it to play its effective role in the peace process and regional stability.

[Begin recording] [Al-'Anani] The Council of Ministers this morning heard a report from the prime minister on recent developments that accelerated events, which were crowned by His Majesty King Husayn's acceptance of President Clinton's invitation to visit to the United States, and then to hold a tripartite meeting comprising President Clinton, his majesty the king, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Regarding the pressures being put on Jordan, are there specific dangers that we do not know?

[Al-'Anani] In fact, I do not believe His Majesty King Husayn was referring to specific matters. However, by virtue of his long political experience and profound knowledge of regional events and developments, his majesty the king believes that Jordan, because of the importance of its great and effective role in the peace process, can come under pressure if the Jordanian track fails to move in the right direction, for this would put the Jordanian position in the receiving end of others' decision, instead of being in an effective role in this regard.

[Correspondent] As part of the quick developments, we have noticed that President Clinton has also made an invitation for a meeting with Congress by His Majesty King Husayn and the Israeli prime minister. Does this have any political significance which may have a positive effect on us, especially since the announcement to this effect was made by President Clinton?

[Al-Tarawinah] Naturally, the administration does not make decisions, but recommends. The decisionmaker is Congress, because there is legislation. Much U.S. legislation has been amended since 1991 and the cancellation of the Egyptian debts. Of course, there is more room for flexibility if the two chambers agree with the administration on a certain issue. This, too, has political significance. The initiative to invite his majesty the king to address the two chambers was made by the two chambers at the request of the House speaker, after consultation with the leader of the majority. We should also note the secretary of state's statement following the U.S. President's statement that the invitation does not mean that a peace treaty will be signed. This is in line with his highness the crown prince's statement following his majesty the king's acceptance of the invitation, which is an important step to advance the peace process, which still has a long way to go. The two chambers' invitation for his majesty the king, without the existence of a peace treaty, is a serious indication of the earnest commitment of the United States, from the administration to the two chambers, to help Jordan economically and militarily. [end recording]

Israeli TV Team Attends News Conference

JN1607154094 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1510 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Amman, 16 Jul (SANA)—An Israeli Television team today attended a news conference held at the Jordanian Prime Ministry by Jordanian Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani and Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks.

Arab and foreign journalists noticed the presence of three Israeli Television correspondents—two men and a woman. Photographers took pictures of the correspondents and a photographer commented: They look familiar. I have seen them on the Israeli Television.

Journalists wondered when the Israeli Television team arrived in Amman and where they were staying. It was noticed that the three Israeli journalists did not leave the Prime Ministry through the door assigned to journalists.

Al-Tarawinah Comments on Talks, Agenda

JN1607082494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Interview with Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation to the bilateral negotiations with Israel, by Hani al-Badri; from the "60 Minutes" program—live]

[Text] [Al-Badri] Dr. Fayiz, Will you please give us details of the upcoming meeting in Wadi al-'Arabah next Monday [18 July], the mechanism of the work of the committees, and the negotiating process?

[Al-Tarawinah] The Wadi al-'Arabah meetings will be part of what we agreed on during the tripartite economic committee meetings in Washington last month. On the sidelines of these meetings, we also held bilateral meetings and agreed that there were very important matters on the joint agenda that we should discuss, particularly the issue of borders and border definition and demarcation. These are the most important phenomena of the peace process, namely, agreement on the border issue. This takes us to the occupied Jordanian territories, which fall within this framework. Part of the border issue is water. The water issue is a basic one and a major element on the joint agenda. In fact, we had no opportunity to tackle the topics listed on the agenda we approved on 14 September 1993.

Therefore, we agreed that the border issue, the occupied Jordanian territories, and the water issue are basic to the joint agenda. We also agreed to work out subagendas for all these topics. The joint agenda defines the term of reference of these topics and the nature and course of negotiations on these topics. Consequently, we agreed in principle to discuss these political issues in detail and to commit ourselves to this principle. Now, the two sides cannot demarcate the border or agree on water rights from Washington. We have to come to the site and to be near this process. Therefore, on 18 July, we will focus on creating the necessary technical mechanism to take the right course regarding these basic issues. We will succeed in this issue, God willing, and it will be the right step to put things in order regarding maps, demarcating the border, defining the occupied territories, and discussing water issues. But I hope that people will remember that the issues of border, security, the territories, water, the environment, and others issues pertaining to these points, as well as the original joint agenda which includes all these topics, have not ended.

There is an agreement that both parties should be fully committed to all the provisions contained in part B of the agenda. We should respect all these provisions. For instance, we are talking about regional security and refugee issues, the provisions of which will be discussed at a certain stage of the negotiations.

[Al-Badri] Dr. Fayiz, what visions does the Jordanian negotiator have as he is going to Wadi al-'Arabah in terms of fully achieving the Jordanian rights to sovereignty which Jordan cares for and has been eager to present for discussion during the past years?

[Al-Tarawinah] These are negotiating cards. Naturally, there is no room to discuss them now. There are issues that are being discussed inside the negotiating halls. However, the bases are the terms of reference of the peace process itself, UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the letter of invitation. We are committed to the basic principles which govern the peace process. Naturally, there are many issues that go into the negotiating process. These issues do not only pertain to the bilateral negotiations between us and Israel. There are issues which have a Palestinian, regional, or even an international dimension.

Hence, our role in the multilateral negotiations is not detached from our role in the bilaterals. The process is a comprehensive one. It is not a process within the framework of the cease=fire agreement. It is a process of achieving a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace that is acceptable to future generations. Consequently, every issue was practically presented for negotiation. As I stated earlier, we placed these issues for negotiation in a logical order. However, we are still governed by the terms of reference themselves and the Jordanian principles which we have adhered to since the beginning of this process and in fact before that as Jordan has accepted many peace initiatives since the 1967 occupation.

[Al-Badri] Dr. Fayiz, a short while ago, his excellency the minister of information talked about continuing the negotiating process. What will take place after the negotiations in Wadi al-'Arabah in order to translate words on paper into reality?

[Al-Tarawinah] In fact, the negotiating process was halted many times. There were regional events and events that emanated from the negotiating process itself. We have entered the crux of the process. We first drew up a joint agenda as well as the subagendas. On 18 July, God willing, we will agree on the mechanism of work for the technical committees which will remain at the site and begin to conduct land surveys, draw maps, and put things into place according to what is stated in the joint agenda which specifically referred to the demarcation of borders according to the mandate. Hence, once the technical committees are formed during that meeting, they will continue their work. There will remain the issue of when the chief delegates will meet for supervision and so forth. Hence, as part of the agreement and mechanism of work, we will also agree on continuing such meetings because we must take into consideration that the borders are long and the process of surveying them should be extremely accurate, as his majesty the king stated and as every Jordanian says, because every inch of land is sacred and should be accounted for. Consequently, it is a long continuous process, which will be carried out, God willing, with the highest degree of efficiency and accuracy. Therefore, I can say that the agreement will incorporate technical formulas for the teams concerned with borders, occupied territories, and water from the south to the north, passing through the middle.

Information Minister on Talks With Israel

JN1507184594 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Interview with Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani by Bashshar Jarrar and Hani al-Badri in the studio; from the "60 Minutes" program—live]

[Text] [Jarrar] We have with us this evening Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani. Good evening.

[Al-'Anani] Good evening to you.

[Jarrar] We have been through several stages in the peace process, starting with the national conference on the peace process, through which we made a unanimous national decision. After that, the peace process was launched in Madrid, and then Washington, and now we have reached this stage. You have said that we are now very careful about the timing and the venue. What is the latest now?

[Al-'Anani] First of all, the peace negotiations should not be viewed as if they were a single event that takes place at a certain hour and then ends. The negotiations represent a series of events and decisions and developments that take place and are linked to each other. This linkage, of course,—as a result of the movement of the negotiating process—makes certain issues that appear to be very important at a certain time appear to be, at a later stage, as if they were additions. There is a process of development that diminishes the importance of a certain event as time goes by. For example, when we went to Washington during the first round, it was very important that we have a solid umbrella to allow the Palestinian delegation to separate from the Jordanian delegation. And this is what happened. Also, the choice of Washington at that time, away from here, was something appropriate for a certain purpose. However, it is unreasonable for me to say that the negotiations should stay in Washington if my interest requires that I move them to this place here. I should not say: No, I do not want this, simply because I took a previous stand on this matter. There are constant principles that should concentrate on demanding rights and having a negotiating position that allows one to attain his rights. But for one to say that the constant principles lie in temporary decisions that do not mean anything at a certain time or that the cost of these decisions is greater than their return, then it is foolish to stick to them. Therefore, when I speak about the timing in the negotiating process, this is because the nature of the negotiating position now allows me to regain my rights—after more than three years have elapsed since the negotiating process was launched—by exercising my sovereignty over my territory and regaining my water rights from this place. We have chosen a site on the border that serves this purpose.

[Jarrar] Dr. al-'Anani, on 14 September 1993, we saw the signing of a common agenda one day after the signing of the Declaration of Principles. On 17 June 1994, we saw the signing of a more detailed agenda. What will take place next Monday [18 July]?

[Al-'Anani] As a matter of fact, the Jordanian agenda is an integral one. As a reminder, it includes three basic parts. The first part speaks about the purpose of the peace process or the negotiating process. It says the purpose is to achieve peace in accordance with the Madrid formula. Then, the agenda adds that in order to reach this peace, the two parties shall seek to reach a definition of peace. What is the peace we want? It is a just, comprehensive, lasting peace in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. What are the issues that should be addressed? The first is the issue of territory, then the issue of borders. Then the issue of security, the issue of water, and, of course, the issue of the refugees and the displaced. There are other issues relating to the environment and the economic situation that will result from this peace process.

[Jarrar] But, of course, there are priorities.

[Al-'Anani] This is in line with our priorities, but the other party also has its own priorities. When you engage in a negotiating process, this does not mean there are only your priorities. The other party has other priorities. Therefore, the process remains under negotiation and you stick to your position. When we saw that the Israeli side refuses to discuss our basic issues and rights, such as exercising sovereignty over our territory—because the concept of sovereignty is indivisible and does not end with occupation [pauses]...I want to exercise this sovereignty over my territory and water, so, of course, a basic part of our demands were achieved. The other thing is that when you talk about security, what do you mean by that? When you are through with the issue of the borders and demarcating them in the future, you must make security arrangements that end the state of hostility.

But how important is the demarcation of the Jordanian border? First, it allows me to be engaged in full economic activity over a piece of land which I could not use when parts of it were occupied. Second, when I embark on economic activities and exercise my full sovereignty over that piece of land, I become in a better position to defend my rights. Then, I can say that what Sharon and others say about Jordan being an alternative homeland, or about Palestine being part of Jordan, is something from the past and we need not worry about it anymore.

[Al-Badri] Doctor, despite the reasonableness of what you have said...

[Jarrar, interrupting] Excuse me, my colleague Hani has held field interviews which showed some fears.

[Al-Badri] This is the basis of my question, doctor. Many of our interviews with the public and with different segments of society have shown that although many are convinced of the need for peace, against the backdrop of his majesty the king's address to the representatives of the people, many are still talking about the difficulty of breaking the psychological barrier to make peace with Israel. How does the information minister respond to this feeling among people in our country?

[Al-'Anani] Actually, we have to admit that the event is not easy, and that it is accompanied by expected human reactions. For example, man accepts many things in life, but when they affect him, he adopts a stand on them, and then life continues afterward. Life does not wait for anybody or for any event. Some people say: How can you negotiate with a party which was an enemy and had wars with me? They also say righteous martyrs fell on the battlefield, so how can you forget their blood? We say the process of building nations and states is not an easy process. It entails sacrifices and many other things. Every nation with self-respect must respect its martyrs and commemorate them, constantly deeming them as an example to be emulated. However, this does not mean the blood of martyrs should prevent nations from progressing toward what serves their interests. In Jordan, we are talking about a future that must be built within the framework of limited resources and known circumstances. If a situation is imposed on me, it is not enough to say I went to the peace process because it was imposed on me and I had no other alternative. No. You may consider making a certain decision because you have to. But when you make that decision, your subsequent actions must not remain based on fear of the situation that you want to avoid. Rather, there should be a desire to attempt to attain the most that you can. This is because the process of construction, creating jobs, providing water, addressing the unemployment problem, building projects, and tackling the poverty problems are basic issues that must be addressed. That process should not only be a means to preserve my rights, but also a motive to honor the blood of the martyrs by creating a better future and a more decent life for their children and the children of their country in the future.

[Al-Badri] Dr. al-'Anani, back to what people think, many people are optimistic that the negotiations may be speedy and may lead to speedy results. Undoubtedly, the negotiations will be long and arduous. What shall we expect from the Wadi al-'Arabah talks on the ground, whether now or in a future stage?

[Al-'Anani] Concerning this issue, if we take the territory and border demarcation issues, for example, those are not easy issues that are subject to quick solutions. When you talk about border demarcation, you must set up committees, provide field services, draw up authentic maps, and do so many other things. All these things must be agreed on.

During the first days we should agree that we must form a special committee to demarcate and clearly draw and define the borders, ensuring my rights to these borders. Secondly, we must agree that in areas where there are differences, I will move in the future from the paperwork to drawing up and obtaining joint maps.

This is the situation. Therefore, we are no longer confining our talks to politics. In the bilateral talks, we talk politics, actual work on the ground, and basic legal issues. On the other side, in the trilateral talks, we talk about socio-economic problems. Therefore, I cannot confuse the perceptible, legal-political issues with the socio-economic issues. The perceptible socio-economic issues are between me and Israel because when I define my position I say that you have what I want and I want such and such thing. But when I talk about a socio-economic effort, Jordan alone will not be able to bear these responsibilities. From the socio-economic viewpoint, the peace process must provide opportunities for work and construction. The United States is capable of playing this role. Therefore, the United States entered the trilaterals, not the bilaterals. We must adhere to our stand that the bilaterals are completely separate from the trilaterals in order to avoid confusion.

[Al-Badri] At the conclusion of this interview, we thank Dr. al-'Anani.

On Ties With Syria, Coordination

JN1607193594 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Jul 94 pp 1, 14

[Report by Hamdan al-Hajj]

[Text] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of information and minister of state for cabinet affairs, has expressed the hope that our relations with the brothers in Syria will continue to be intimate, warm, strong, and firm. He said that Jordan is completely open for any meeting, dialogue, coordination, or cooperation. He noted that all Arab states are experiencing a state of siege, and that rarely can one find a single Arab state outside the siege.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, within the framework of a symposium during which he answered questions on the minds of many people, Dr. al-'Anani denied that Jordan is embarking on a separate deal. He stressed that Jordan strongly adheres to the agenda signed with Israel last year.

Dr. al-'Anani noted that Jordan and its economy always benefit from the state of concord in the Arab world. He said that any accord among the Arabs will always be in the interest of the Kingdom.

Dr. al-'Anani added that the issue of refugees and the displaced is one of the most complicated and sensitive issues at bilateral, trilateral, or quadripartite talks, and it will be discussed in accordance with prevailing international laws. He said all the resolutions that have been issued by the UN Security Council in this regard are considered part of international law.

Dr. al-'Anani said the issues which will be discussed during the trilateral talks will deal with tourism, economy, the environment, energy, and other issues. While Israel insists that the economy should be discussed first, Jordan insists on the demarcation of borders first. This is why the refugees issue was linked with the economic cooperation issue, the water issue was linked with the environment issue, and security with territories and border, so that there will be no future demands, and so some of the issues prepared for discussion are not skipped.

Dr. al-'Anani stressed the need for Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, which he considered necessary for many reasons, so there will be a clear concept, although the economic agreement is frozen. He said Jordan tried to reactivate this agreement through some steps, but this has not taken place. He said that direct coordination now is weak and needs reconsideration.

Spokesman: Israel Agrees to Bilateral Session

JN1707190094 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Report by correspondent Kassab Samawi]

[Text] A large number of journalists and media men are present in al-'Aqabah. This evening they toured the site where the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations will take place in Wadi al-'Arabah. The final touches have been completed by both sides. The final preparations have been made, just before the Jordanian and Israeli sides are to enter the negotiations tent at 1000 tomorrow, Monday.

The journalists and media men were put in the picture of the great press facilities that have been made in order to cover this important event, which is receiving extraordinary international media attention. They were acquainted with all the details dealing with the negotiations process and the places where the talks will be held.

Jordanian and Israeli representatives held a preparatory meeting this afternoon at the negotiations site in which all technical and organizational details were worked out for the bilateral negotiations and the tripartite Jordanian-Israeli-U.S. meeting, which will be held next Wednesday.

[Begin recording] [Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, spokesman for the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks] Final preparations for the bilateral negotiations and the tripartite talks were made. As for the bilateral negotiations, there will be a two-day meeting, as the Jordanian side has demanded. The meeting will begin with an inaugural session, then will be divided into three working groups that were agreed on in Washington—the security committee, and a second committee for borders and lands, and a third committee for water, environment, and energy. The morning meeting will last until 1300, to be followed by a short lunch break, following which we will resume work from 1400 until 1800. This will be followed by a news conference by the official Jordanian spokesman and another for the official Israeli spokesman.

On 19 July, there will be a morning session until 1200, followed by a joint news conference for the heads of the Jordanian and Israeli delegations.

[Samawi] What about the tripartite meeting?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] As for the tripartite meeting, it will begin on 20 July. A general tripartite meeting will be held comprising the U.S. secretary of state, the Israeli foreign minister, in addition to his excellency the prime minister in his capacity as foreign minister. There will also be a joint news conference for the three foreign ministers after the meeting that is expected at nearly 1630. We will resume meeting on Thursday, 21 July in a morning session following which the tripartite talks will end.

[Samawi] Before the preparatory meeting today, there were two different views in the Jordanian and Israeli delegations concerning the duration of the talks on Monday, and the number of members of the two delegations. How did this problem end?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] As I said, the Israeli side wanted the talks or the bilateral negotiations to be for one day. In fact, we want serious negotiations, not mere ceremonial negotiations, therefore, we insisted that the negotiations be for more than one day. After the end of the tripartite talks, we want to agree on the formation of technical committees and to work seriously on border demarcation and water, in particular. As for the delegations' members, we agreed that the official delegation be comprised of 11 members, and a number of experts and assistants will sit on the back seats. The number of these experts and assistants is expected to be around 15. [end recording]

We will be with you live tomorrow at 0900 [0600 GMT] to cover this important event.

Comments on King's Upcoming Meetings

JN1707151994 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Jul 94 pp 1, 20

[By 'Abd-al-Khaliq al-Mumani and Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Al-'Aqabah—Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, official spokesman for the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, has said the upcoming meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. President Bill Clinton falls within the framework of the terms of reference of the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations defined in the joint agenda that was signed by Jordan and Israel on 14 September of last year.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B in al-'Aqabah last night, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir added that any step taken by Jordan falls within that framework and is aimed at solving all the outstanding matters between Jordan and Israel in accordance with the items of the agenda signed by both sides.

He said His Majesty King Husayn's upcoming meeting is not aimed at signing a unilateral peace treaty with Israel or creating any new mechanism. Rather, he added, it is a step to advance the peace process and to promote negotiations on that agenda. Therefore, he said, the bilateral talks would intensify because they are the mechanism through which outstanding issues between the two sides will be discussed.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir indicated that a bilateral meeting would be held between Jordan and Israel in the city of al-'Aqabah Sunday [17 July] morning to put the final touches on arrangements to begin the bilateral talks tomorrow. Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, 'Umar al- Rifa'i, and representatives of the Jordanian Armed Forces will take part in these talks.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir expects the bilateral talks to last two days, after which the tripartite Jordanian-Israeli-U.S. talks on economic cooperation in the region will begin at the Dead Sea Spa.

Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir will hold a news conference with press and information representatives at the Holiday Inn in al-'Aqabah this evening to review the latest arrangements for the Jordanian-Israeli meeting, the first of its kind in the region since the Madrid conference. The Joranian side will be led by Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks and Jordanian ambassador in Washington, while the Israeli side will be led by Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the peace negotiations.

IAF Says Upcoming King-Rabin Meeting 'Sad Day'

JN1607123694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] House of Representatives Member Hamzah Mansur, the official spokesman for the Islamic Action Front [IAF] that stems from the Muslim Brothers in Jordan has stated in Amman that the meeting between king Husayn and Yitzhaq Rabin will be a sad day for Jordan.

Media Treatment of King's Decision To Meet Rabin

JN1707191594

Jordan's Arabic dailies on 16 July highlight King Husayn's acceptance of U.S. President Clinton's invitation to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Under page one banner headlines, the papers carry a PETRA-datelined report on the king's acceptance of

President Clinton's invitation and the text of a speech King Husayn delivered when he visited Jordan's Fourth Mechanized Division. In his remarks, King Husyan explains Jordan's position on the peace process.

Editorials, articles, and columns in the 16 and 17 July Arabic press defend King Husayn's decision to meet with Rabin. All praise the decision. Jordanian media have not been observed to carry any criticism of King Husayn's decision, including the criticism attributed to the Islamic Action Front and reported by Paris Radio Monte Carlo on 16 July.

Writing in his page 22 column in the 17 July issue of Amman AL-RA'Y, Sultan al-Hattab says: "I continue to opppose the apologetic method, or even the method of justifying our going to Wadi al-'Arabah as negotiators. If we are convinced that going there and conducting negotiations will protect our national cause, then we must give up this apologetic attitude." The columnist adds that the official media should not "submit its viewpoint supporting the negotiations and keep away the other viewpoint which has reservations." "Why keep away the viewpoints of the others? Should we be ashamed of them if made public? It is not true that our society supports 100 percent the peaceful settlement, the negotiations, the Wadi al-'Arabah meeting, and the Washington meeting between al-Husayn and Rabin."

Defending King Husayn's decision to meet with Rabin, an AL-'RA'Y editorial on 26 July cites Crown Prince Hasan's statement that "Husayn's acceptance of the Clinton invitation was based on the premise that the invitation is directly linked to boosting the process in order to reach a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace." An Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B editorial on 16 July says: "King Husayn accepted President Clinton's invitation because he is convinced of the seriousness of the U.S. stand and because he is eager to continue discussing the Jordanian-Israeli agenda until the full achievement of all national rights to territory, water, and total sovereignty."

In another article on page 26 of AL-RA'Y's 16 July issue, Dr. Tawfiq Abu-al-Rubb writes: "Mistaken will be those who believe that the peace battle with Israel is less fierce than the fighting, and that it does not need strategies, efforts, and preparation. This is so because Zionism moves toward peace unwillingly. It moves toward it in response to the decisions and the pressures of the big powers, who finally decided to establish peace in the region following decades of wars and enmity."

On page 27 of Amman AL-DUSTUR of 17 July, columnist Hamadah Fara'inah justifies the king's meeting with Rabin and the peace process in general, arguing: "No one can claim that the settlement that is under way between four Arab parties and Israel is exemplary in terms of its tracks and essence. No one can claim it is a just settlement, as some describe it. At the same time, no one can reject it, because the price would be prohibitive. Shamir tried to reject it, or to obstruct it. He paid the price of having his political career terminated and his party's failing to lead the government. Following the results of the international situation (Moscow) and the regional situation (Baghdad), the U.S., international, and regional decision has become ready to peddle the settlement and carry it out."

Buwayz Views Christopher's Tour, Other Issues

Comments on Peres' Golan Remarks

NC1507161394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, 15 Jul (MENA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' statements on Israel's recognition of Syrian sovereignty over the Golan take on special importance only hours before U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is to begin important talks in Israel, Syria, and other countries in the region. Buwayz emphasized that these statements imply that the U.S. proposals during Christopher's talks with Syrian and Israeli officials will be applicable and practical.

In remarks to MENA's correspondent in Beirut, Buwayz said Peres' statements were not new and that similar ones have been made by some Israeli officials. He added that Peres' reassertion of this measure has special importance that suggests Secretary Christopher will bring new proposals to Syrian officials.

Buwayz noted that Damascus previously affirmed that peace can be achieved through practical implementation of the commitment to bring about peace and withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

Buwayz said it seems that Christopher's tour will focus on the Syrian-Israeli track and noted that Peres' current attempts in Israel to play a bigger role in the coming phase reflects some changes in the Israeli policy on the peace process.

Examines Jordan-Israel Talks

NC1607153694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, 16 Jul (MENA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has affirmed that any progress on any track of the Middle East peace negotiations will not be harmful, so long as progress in that track remains within the framework of comprehensive peace in the region.

Commenting on the upcoming Jordanian-Israeli summit between King Husayn of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington on 25 July, Buwayz said in an exclusive interview with the MENA correspondent in Beirut that the Jordanian approach will define whether this step will be merely a technical one with no intention of diverting from the Arab position or whether it is a final step that will create a gap in the Arab stance.

In his interview, Buwayz described the Jordanian announcement that Jordan will not sign a unilateral peace agreement with Israel without the other parties as encouraging. He said that commitment to this position will overwhelm the negative effects of any unilateral proposal between Jordan and Israel.

In his interview, the Lebanese foreign minister welcomed U.S. President Bill Clinton's declaration that he is committed to a comprehensive solution and to making a breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli track of the peace talks.

He said that reading into President Clinton's statements reveals a policy that supports a comprehensive solution. These statements also reveal that if certain circumstances have dictated priorities in handling some files, this does not mean that the U.S. Administration's viewpoint is to establish partial or unilateral peace.

Buwayz said Clinton's statement leads one to believe that when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher comes to the region on a tour starting tomorrow he will make practical and serious proposals to Syria that will be very different from the general and principled proposals made during his previous tours.

He affirmed that such a step on the part of the United States will introduce the Syrian-Israeli track to a new and practical mechanism that will be launched soon after.

The Lebanese foreign minister described Christopher's upcoming tour as distinguished in quality. He said that it could pave a practical and serious road of progress in the peace process toward a comprehensive solution. However, he warned against being overly optimistic and expecting surprises and breakthroughs.

Buwayz said that he does not expect big surprises in the Syrian-Israeli track as a result of Christopher's upcoming visit, in view of the fact that this is an extremely sensitive and crucial track that needs continuous and successive efforts. The Syrian-Israeli track cannot be wrapped up in one meeting or in a few days.

Answering a question on whether an agreement on a declaration of principles between Syria and Israel will be announced in September, according to what some diplomatic circles are reporting, Buwayz said that accurate prediction of the course of events remains difficult. However, he said that it is clear now that U.S. efforts are increasing in the Syrian-Israeli track, since the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks have progressed.

Faris Buwayz clarified in his interview that the prevalent feeling now is that these U.S. efforts have become more basic and practical than before and that the United States wants to bolster progress made on the other tracks by making progress on the Syrian front and then the Lebanese front.

On the possibility that Christopher's talks in the region will succeed in resuming the peace negotiations in Washington, Buwayz said that the resumption of the Washington talks is linked to achievements made during Christopher's tour. These achievements will define the justification for and the kind of any future negotiations in Washington.

Answering a question on whether progress on the Lebanese track is linked to progress on the Syrian track first, Buwayz said that progress could be made on both tracks equally. However, we first have to wait and see what Christopher is carrying with him during this round.

Buwayz reiterated Lebanon's stance rejecting any unilateral peace agreement with Israel under any circumstances. He said that his country cannot accept anything but a comprehensive peace. He warned that without peace with Syria and Lebanon there will not be any peace in the region.

Concluding his interview with the MENA correspondent, the Lebanese foreign minister clarified that there is a big difference between two things: The intention to proceed toward a unilateral peace that could have negative repercussions on the Arab cause and the future of the peace conference on the one hand, and the principle of progress in any of the tracks from the material or technical aspect within the framework of Arab solidarity in a way that would not completely isolate that party outside the framework of the peace process.

He pointed out that the conflict is not between one Arab country and Israel as much as it is between the Arabs as a whole and Israel. He affirmed that this conflict has cut across country borders as a result of its historic, psychological, political, and ideological depths.

On the possibility of Warren Christopher visiting Lebanon, Buwayz mentioned that so far he does not have any official information about any such visit.

Notes Importance of Syrian Track

NC1807060094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Report by Dr. Sayyid 'Ali from Lebanon—recorded]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's mission in the region to activate the negotiating process is the main issue preoccupying the Lebanese Government, Parliament, and politicians. The slogan of wait and see is the key to the political stance in Lebanon, something the information available in Beirut confirms. The government has gone to the extent of expressing its readiness to shoulder the sacrifices of the tension in south Lebanon. On the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's arrival in the region, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stated that if Washington is really committed to the comprehensive settlement, determined to achieve peace before 1995, and realizes that time is running out, then it must salvage the settlement process by playing its role as a fair go-between and as a driving force. He said:

[Buwayz] Christopher is expected to be carrying practical proposals. What does this expression mean? It means, at least on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks, that the United States has been bringing messages or trying to explain the two sides' intentions and positions. I believe there is a realization now that the United States must play its role as a fair go-between and a driving force. The Lebanese file and the Syrian one might not be regarded as urgent right now but there is at least a realization that this peace cannot be concluded by bypassing them. Any comprehensive peace—in the sense that it moves in various directions and ends up as a permanent peace, not a cease-fire or circumstantial or phasial peace—cannot ignore the Lebanese angle.

I think that the United States believes that developments on the Syrian track could have a positive effect on several tracks, primarily the Lebanese one, because of the interaction between these two tracks.

Samahah Links Christopher Visit to Israeli Attacks

NC1507175794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1610 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Interview with Information Minister Michel Samahah by unidentified correspondent for the Cairo-based Voice of the Arabs in Cairo on 15 July—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Correspondent] Brothers, Lebanese Information Minister Michel Samahah is currently visiting Cairo leading Lebanon's delegation to the 27th session of the Arab Information Ministers Council, which ended yesterday. We took the opportunity of the visit to conduct the following interview. We first asked him why Israel is currently escalating its aggression against southern Lebanon.

[Samahah] The nature of Israel's presence in the region is one of occupation. In Lebanon it is occupying the south and Western al- Biqa'. Its contact with Lebanon—like its contacts with Syria, Palestine, and Jordan—is one of occupation. Therefore, it is natural for Israel to carry out daily aggression and, along with it, belligerently promote the lie that it is the victim. Israelis claim that they retaliate for attacks, that they attack south Lebanon and its inhabitants and other areas as a reaction to resistance operations. Resistance operations are legitimate acts recognized by international laws, conventions, and agreements. Our people in the south are rightfully engaged in an honorable resistance, defending our rights and demonstrating our will to liberate our lands.

Israel's violent aggressive acts are escalating at present. This is Israel's way of preparing for every negotiating process. We are used to Israel preparing for negotiations by creating tension and accelerating the war machine. Whenever an envoy visits the region carrying peace ideas—and there have recently been many visits by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and before him Secretary Baker—our citizens in south Lebanon, Western al-Biqa', and other areas pay the visit's bill in the form of shelling and destruction, which Israel justifies as retaliation to resistance acts. But the resistance is continuing daily and will continue until the land is liberated. The escalation represents pressure messages that Israel sends to the Lebanese Government to influence and tame its decision and to pressure Lebanese society, which has just embarked on serious work to build a civil peace through legitimate institutions and build a state for a unified people facing the aggression firmly and demanding the restoration of rights and land and the establishment of the state's full sovereignty on all Lebanese territory. The restoration of south Lebanon and Western al-Biqa' is the symbol for restoring sovereignty.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, you explained that there is a link between what is happening in south Lebanon and any visits to the region. Does this mean that there is a link between the existing situation in south Lebanon and the upcoming visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher?

[Samahah] Certainly. I cannot view the current escalation except from this perspective. Over the past years we have seen such an escalation whenever an envoy, especially the U.S. secretary of state, visited the region to activate negotiations and whenever the Arab negotiators went to Washington for further talks on the various tracks within the Madrid peace conference. [passage omitted]

Official Reiterates Comprehensive Peace Idea

NC1607073994 Paris AFP in English 0719 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Report by Jacques Lhuillery]

[Text] Beirut, July 16 (AFP)—Lebanon has linked its fate with Syria's in demanding a comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement "or nothing at all" even as the Jordanians and Palestinians march toward their own peace with Israel.

"Any individual progress is fine if it leads to a global peace," a senior Lebanese official told AFP.

But the official who declined to be named warned that border negotiations next week between Israel and Jordan as well as the Israeli-PLO accord launching Palestinian self-rule in May did not fulfill hopes for a comprehensive peace.

In another sign of rapid change, it was announced Friday [15 July] that King Husayn of Jordan and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin of Israel would go to Washington on July 25 for their first public summit.

US President Bill Clinton telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on Friday to assure him of Washington's "commitment to a comprehensive peace," Syria's official news agency reported.

On the eve of a new regional peace mission by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the Lebanese official said "Israel is currently securing promissory notes to sell the notion of peace."

The US secretary of state is to visit Damascus, which has an estimated 35,000 troops in Lebanon and is the main foreign power broker here, but is not expected to visit Beirut.

Officials here agree that the conflict is not between Israel and its Arab neighbours. "The conflict is between Israel and the Arab states and Israel will only sign with all of them or none," one official said.

"It's like buying a piece of land owned by several share holders. You need to secure all of the shares to own all the land.

"Israel, too, is holding on to shares and will sell them once it is assured that the others will go along," he added.

According to one official, Washington has tried repeatedly to push Beirut to go it alone and start separate peace talks with Israel without Syria.

But the United States gave up now trying to break up the Syrian- Lebanese tandem after realising that it would "make Damascus more nervous," the official added.

President Ilyas al-Hirawi reiterated on Thursday that "Lebanon will sign with Syria and will be the last to sign."

Beirut and Damascus have sealed their fates in a treaty of friendship and cooperation since May 1991 and Lebanese leaders go to Damascus whenever there is trouble at home.

Both countries also share a key card in their negotiations with Israel: the anti-Israeli resistance spearheaded by the Iranian- backed Hizballah guerrillas which have vowed to drive Israeli troops from south Lebanon.

Lebanon refuses to disband Hizballah before Israel complies with UN Security Council Resolution 425 to evacuate a "security zone" in south Lebanon, a move which would also pave the way for setting up a joint military commission.

Israel has repeatedly accused Syria of stoking violence in south Lebanon to win concessions in the peace talks and has warned Damascus to rein in Hizballah after each flare-up.

Officials here believe that Washington can no longer play the role of messenger between Israel and Syria, stressing that Damascus alone can turn on or off the tap that provides financial aid to guerrillas in south Lebanon.

Washington alone can offer the necessary guarantees to bridge the gap between Israel and Syria and in doing so it must prove to be an "honest broker and a driving force" in the negotiations, one official said.

Such guarantees, the official said, could include the removal of Scud surface-to-surface missiles from Syria in exchange for the dismantling of Israel's Dimona nuclear plant.

On the issue of the Golan Heights, where Israel recognised Syrian sovereignty for the first time publicly on Thursday, the official suggested the deployment of US troops.

Fadlallah: Islam Rejects Any Peace With Israel

NC1507191294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Excerpt] His eminence 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has rejected any form of peace with the Zionist entity. Recognizing the Zionist entity means recognizing the oppressor and the arrogant, he said. This statement was made in his Friday sermon in Imam al-Rida Mosque in Beirut's southern suburb. He said the Zionist entity and its backer, international arrogance, are planning to impose political and economic hegemony over all peoples of the region. Accordingly, he explained, the Islamic shari'ah compels us to reject peace with the Zionist occupiers. [passage omitted]

Resistance Announces Attack on Bra'shit Position

NC1707061594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] According to an Islamic Resistance source, at dawn today one of its groups attacked the Bra'shit position, which is manned by Israeli occupation troops, inflicting heavy casualties and equipment losses on the enemy.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY received the following Islamic Resistance statement this morning:

Inspired by the memory of Imam al-Hasan, the Islamic Resistance launched a lightning and surprise attack on the Bra'shit position at 0510 today. The Resistance fighters fought a fierce battle with various types of weapons with the Israeli company stationed at the position, which was made up of five military vehicles and their crews. The resistance killed or wounded several of the enemies, demolished various fortifications and buildings at the position, and damaged several vehicles.

It should be noted that enemy forces are now stationed at the Bra'shit position instead of the agent Lahd's [South Lebanese Army, SLA] elements who, according to the Islamic Resistance statement, are unable to defend the position.

Timor Goksel, official spokesman for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, pointed out earlier that Israeli reinforcements had been brought to the area. In remarks to the newspaper AL-DIYAR, Goksel said observers can see that the Israelis are stationed in positions formerly held by the Ladhists.

Goksel, however, ruled out a major military escalation in the south.

Amal Statement Details Attack on Tallusah Position

NC1707092394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] The Amal Movement issued a statement today that the Martyr Muhammad al-'Abd Group of the Martyr Ni'mah Haydar Unit of the Lebanese Resistance Brigades, Amal, attacked the Tallusah position and clashed with its garrison for half an hour at dawn today. The combatants used machine guns and rockets in the fighting. The enemy casualties could not be determined because of the heavy gunfire and artillery bombardment with which the enemy retaliated against the villages of Majdal Silm, Tulin, and Qabrikha.

The Amal resistance group returned safely to base after the operation.

The enemy radio has acknowledged the Amal operation, alleging that it caused no casualties, merely some property damage. The radio said that the enemy artillery returned fire.

Reports from the south indicate the residential areas in the township of Bra'shit were the target of shelling by 155-mm and 120- mm guns for more than two hours this morning. Dozens of houses were damaged, including the homes of 'Imad Muhammad Farhat, Ta'lat Muhammad Farhat, Ibrahim Shihab, and Mustafa Farhat.

The reports add that several shells hit Shaqra, damaging the home of Haydar Ghamlush and surrounding crop fields. The sources of the fire were the enemy's artillery emplacements on the Bra'shit and Muhaybib hills.

Al-Asad, Clinton Discuss Christopher Tour

JN1607060594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call from U.S. President Bill Clinton at 1720 yesterday. The telephone conversation dealt with the regional peace process, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming tour of the region.

During their conversation, President Clinton reiterated the U.S. commitment to achieve comprehensive peace in the region.

In a meeting with reporters at the White House yesterday, U.S. President Bill Clinton stressed the need to make the dream of a lasting peace of the brave a reality. He also underscored his personal commitment to achieve a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

President Clinton added that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will continue U.S. efforts to achieve progress in the peace talks, noting that this is extremely important for the United States.

The U.S. president went on to say: I am committed to working to achieve a breakthrough in all the talks as soon as possible.

President Clinton said that the achievement of progress on the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations is crucial for the achievement of a comprehensive Middle East settlement. He said that this progress will figure highly in Christopher's talks when he tours the Middle East next week ahead of an Israeli-U.S. summit.

Clinton added that Christopher will also meet with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat during his upcoming tour of the region to discuss the progress made on the basis of the Israeli-PLO agreement signed in Washington in September 1993.

Radio on Clinton Commitment to 'Comprehensive' Peace

JN1607142194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1145 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It has become evident to all concerned and to all observers that Syria is the key to peace, and that it is the only party that has offered a clear and incontestable concept of peace. Syria has always declared and stressed that it supports a just, comprehensive peace, as outlined by the Madrid conference, a peace based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the principle of land for peace. Since then—and even earlier—Syria has rejected any bargaining over the need for a just and comprehensive solution. In other words, liberating the occupied territory and allowing its owners to return to it is a basic, indispensable condition of peace. Apart from that, anything else is a circumvention of the truth, a waste of time, and a threat to peace efforts and objectives.

Syria has warned of the grave effects of Israeli policy on the peace process, in view of Israel's continued and escalating aggression inside and outside the occupied territory, especially in southern Lebanon and throughout all of Lebanon, and in view of its attempts to achieve partial and separate solutions that contravene the bases of the Madrid conference and the essence of the UN resolutions regulating the entire peace process.

Events provide sound and convincing evidence about the correctness of Syria's policy on peace, the region's future and security, the interests of peoples of the region, and world peace. Therefore, it is not surprising that yesterday, during his telephone conversation with President Hafiz al-Asad, U.S. President Bill Clinton emphasized the U.S. commitment to a comprehensive peace in the region. Earlier, he told reporters at the White House that he will continue efforts to achieve substantial progress on all tracks as soon as possible so the dream of the peace of the brave can become a reality.

Still, the crucial question asked by anyone interested in the peace process is: Where does Israel stand regarding all those peace efforts, if it continues its occupation and evasion of the peace requirements that have been adopted by the Madrid conference and the U.S. initiative, which stresses withdrawal from the occupied territory in return for peace? Through its leader, President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria was quite clear when it called for full withdrawal in return for comprehensive peace. Therefore, the statements of Peres and other Israeli officials acknowledging Syrian Arab sovereignty over the Golan are only a reiteration of a fact approved by the international community and international law. Translating these statements into reality is the criterion that will prove Israel's peace intentions. Otherwise, the dream of the peace of the brave will remain far-fetched.

The road to peace is clear. It begins with the implementation of UN resolutions and respecting world unanimity. This is what al-Asad's Syria has always said, and this is what Israel has always evaded, seeking to undermine the requirements of a successful peace by its polices of killing, deportation, kidnapping, building settlements in the occupied territories, and other similar daily policies to confront international efforts, especially the efforts of the U.S. sponsor to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the region.

Damascus Reports Plans for Husayn-Rabin Meeting

JN1607081994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Washington—U.S. President Bill Clinton announced yesterday that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and King Husayn of Jordan will meet in

Washington on 25 July upon his invitation in the first public encounter between the two.

In a statement to reporters at the White House, Clinton added that Rabin and King Husayn will address a joint session of the U.S. Congress, and both will attend a dinner banquet at the White House.

Clinton described the Husayn-Rabin meeting as another step forward in the efforts to achieve lasting peace in the Middle East. He added that both Rabin and King Husayn have demonstrated what he called courageous leadership in their efforts to make progress in the thorny peace negotiations.

Clinton went on to say that he will send his Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region to help the two countries overcome outstanding differences.

For his part, Secretary of State Christopher said that the Middle East is actually entering a new era. He said that the Washington summit to be held between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and King Husayn of Jordan is an event that will change the landscape in the Middle East.

In another statement, Christopher said that the summit will not result in the signing of a peace agreement between the two sides.

In Amman, an official Jordanian source has said that King Husayn has accepted U.S. President Bill Clinton's invitation for a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in the U.S. capital on 25 July. The source informed AFP that Clinton's invitation was contained in a letter sent to King Husayn in reply to a letter King Husayn had sent to Clinton the day before yesterday, in which the Jordanian monarch expressed his willingness to bring forward the date for a meeting with Rabin if he obtains U.S. guarantees regarding promised aid to Jordan.

In occupied Palestine, Israeli Government Spokesman 'Oded Ben-'Ami has told AFP in occupied Jerusalem that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin received the U.S. president's invitation for a meeting with King Husayn yesterday, and immediately accepted the offer.

The agency added that it had been learned from diplomatic sources in the U.S. capital that Yitzhaq Rabin and King Husayn will meet in Washington on 25 July in the hope of concluding a peace agreement.

For his part, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said that the summit, slated to be held between King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, constitutes a breakthrough along the path of peace. In a statement to the Israeli Television yesterday, Peres said that this public meeting is a breakthrough along the path of peace, because it breaks the veil of secrecy, in which similar encounters were held in the past.

It is to be recalled that diplomatic sources have confirmed that Israeli and Jordanian officials have repeatedly held secret meetings in the aftermath of the 1967 war.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin has stated that the summit, slated to be held between King Husayn of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, will facilitate Israeli negotiations with the PLO, which does not want to lag behind.

In a statement to AFP today, Beilin linked the Husayn-Rabin Washington meeting with the bilateral [Jordanian-Israeli] negotiations scheduled to start on 18 July. Beilin added that the two meetings complement one another. This confirms, he said, that it is possible to proceed with normalization and complex negotiations on border demarcation and water resources at the same time.

A source close to the Israeli Government commended the meeting to be held between Rabin and King Husayn, noting that it will not result in the signing of a peace agreement between the two sides.

Press: Peres Golan Statements Provide Nothing New

JN1607100594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN today editorializes on the statements made recently by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres regarding the occupied Syrian Arab Golan. The paper affirms that occupation cannot revoke Syrian Arab sovereignty over the Golan regardless of how long it lasts. For the Golan is Syrian territory, and is bound to return to its rightful owners in compliance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, the U.S. peace initiative, and the Madrid conference formula. This has also been highlighted by the Washington talks.

TISHRIN adds: The issues under consideration are dismantling the occupation and effecting complete withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. Complete withdrawal is the essence and basic aim of the peace process. Given this fact, one can safely say that the Israelis have not managed to circumvent the requirements of just and comprehensive peace. Likewise, they have failed to evade the basic issue of the peace process; namely, terminating the occupation.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Israel is still far removed from the bases of the peace process. It has continued to evade any clear commitment to withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, thus scuttling the opportunity for achieving true peace.

The paper says: Nobody can question Syrian sovereignty over the Golan, for it is Syrian territory, and it is bound to return to the motherland, just as our displaced kinsfolk are bound to return to their villages, homes, and towns. The Israeli occupation authorities, regardless of the measures they take, the laws they enact, and their oppressive, repressive, and terrorist practices, cannot revoke Syrian sovereignty over the Golan. This is because international resolutions, international conventions, as well as historical and geographical facts testify to this sovereignty. Hence, Israel's acknowledgement of this sovereignty will not provide anything new with regard to the peace process, and ending the stalemate plaguing it.

The paper concludes by saying: What is specifically required of Israeli rulers is to make a statement expressing a willingness to dismantle the Israeli occupation of the Golan and southern Lebanon, and comply with the relevant international legitimacy resolutions, which demand complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH addresses the Middle East peace process, holding Israel responsible for its obstruction, and asserting that the danger lies in the fact that Israel, which is disobeying international legitimacy and violating the spirit of the U.S. initiative, seeks to maintain the status quo, which allows it to deal with some Arab sides that have fallen into the trap of separate deals, one at a time, and take advantage of the partial agreements concluded to the Arabs' detriment. By so doing, Israel hopes to evade the requirements of peace, chief among which is the requirement of effecting complete withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the remaining occupied Arab territories.

AL-THAWRAH also comments on the climate prevailing ahead of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, saying: Israel has not thus far projected the image of a country that is seeking just and comprehensive peace. Similarly, it has not displayed a willingness to pay the dues of such peace; namely, a complete and full withdrawal from all the territories it occupied by aggression in June 1967 and June 1982. That is why it it placing obstacles in the path of the intrinsic mechanism of the peace process; namely, the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and withdrawal to the pre-1967 and pre-1982 borders.

AL-THAWRAH adds that the Israeli deception has now become exposed, even to the U.S. Administration, which has reiterated its commitment to achieving just and comprehensive peace on all tracks of the negotiations. This prompts us to wait for what Christopher could be carrying with him, particularly since he has promised not to return to the region unless he sees room for progress. It is to be recalled that there can be no progress unless Israel abandons its intransigence, and accepts the basic components of peace, chief among which is full withdrawal.

Concluding its article, the paper wonders: Will Christopher's tour produce tangible progress? Or will the Israeli position, as usual, kill all rays of hope?

Peres Golan Statements Termed 'Insufficient'

JN1707072794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Indispensable Components of Peace," the newspaper TISHRIN says: In a recent telephone call with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, U.S. President Bill Clinton reiterated the U.S. commitment to achieve comprehensive peace in the region.

The paper notes that Clinton's assertions come on the eve of a new tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to revive the talks on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks of negotiations, which have been stalemated due to Israel's rejection of complete and full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

TISHRIN adds: Syria welcomes the U.S. secretary of state's tour, as well as U.S. efforts. Nonetheless, it is important to dot the i's and cross the t's with regard to the peace process. Syria adheres to the terms of reference agreed on for the Madrid conference, to the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and to the land-for-peace formula. It cannot accept the Israeli proposals, which aim to obscure the relevant international legitimacy resolutions and achieve separate and partial settlements instead of just and comprehensive peace.

The paper goes on to say: Syria seeks to regain its sovereignty over the entire territory of the occupied Golan. Likewise, it seeks complete Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Barring this, it is impossible to make any progress, or to delve into details regarding peace arrangements. When it demands the restoration of its own territories, and the restoration of Lebanese territories, Syria demands the vindication of right, and the implementation of the relevant international resolutions, which provide for complete withdrawal, stipulate that the demographic setup and features of the occupied territories should remain unchanged, and deem illegal the construction of settlements therein.

TISHRIN believes that the U.S. secretary of state's efforts must definitely focus on effecting a change in the intransigent Israeli position. These efforts must also underline the indispensable components of the desired peace in the region in terms of vindicating right and justice and achieving a comprehensive solution.

The paper concludes by saying that Syria has repeatedly explained that it is firmly committed to achieving a just and comprehensive solution grounded in the relevant international legitimacy resolutions and the land-for-peace formula.

Syria's desire for peace stems from a genuine belief in peace, and the need to terminate all manifestations of injustice, oppression, and occupation in the region.

Under the headline "Constant Commitment," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH publishes a commentary, saying: Undoubtedly, Syria's eagerness to render the peace process a success stems from its keenness to restore the Arab territories and rights in full, and also from its desire to achieve just and comprehensive peace in order to defuse regional tension. Syria is committed to the restoration of Arab rights, and to a comprehensive and just solution on all fronts. In the same vein, it is committed to the peace process, and deems it a precious opportunity that must be seized by the international community to achieve just and durable peace in the region, a peace that will end all forms of injustice, hegemony, and occupation.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Syria has done its best to promote the peace process. Likewise, it has taken an extremely positive stand toward the efforts to activate this process in order to avoid a stalemate. Consequently, the entire world community has now become fully aware that Syria is sincere in its peace efforts. In contrast, Israel has been making efforts to scuttle peace efforts, and attempting to create obstacles and difficulties to preclude progress in the peace process.

The paper says that Christopher, who is coming to the region on a new tour aimed at activating the peace process, is well aware that Israel's failure to change its current stand will prevent him from scoring any accomplishment that could promote the prospects for peace. Meanwhile, he will find that Syria has continued to believe in just and comprehensive peace, the peace that safeguards rights and ensures the restoration of all territories. Christopher will also find that Syria, which is committed to the principles of right and justice and armed with the relevant international legitimacy resolutions and principles, is determined to proceed with the peace process with an open mind and enlightened heart.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by urging the U.S. Administration to shoulder its responsibilities of cutting Israel to size, and making it accept just and comprehensive peace, which would terminate the occupation and allow the region to enjoy security and stability confidently.

The newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the statements the Israeli foreign minister has made regarding the occupied Golan, saying that Syria was not in need of Shim'on Peres' acknowledgement of Syrian sovereignty over the Golan, because the Golan has been Syrian territory since time immemorial, and will remain so forever. This fact cannot be revoked by annexation or occupation. Hence, this acknowledgement provides nothing new, especially in the context of the peace process. This is because this acknowledgement was merely verbal. Syria seeks the restoration of its own occupied territories, as well as other occupied Arab territories.

AL-BA'TH adds: Peres' statements were timed to come on the eve of the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region, and ahead of a carefully prepared event that is a example of the separate deals pursued by Israel to the detriment of the entire Arab cause.

AL-BA'TH affirms that Syria's policy has remained unchanged. Syria would like to say that if adherence to Arab rights is deemed intransigence, then Syria accepts to be called an intransigent party. This is because it refuses to join the bandwagon of separate deals, which will lead the Arabs nowhere, except Israeli hegemony.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: The acknowledgement by Peres and others of Syrian sovereignty over the Golan is insufficient. It will remain useless words if not matched by a complete and full withdrawal, not only from the occupied Golan Heights, but also from southern Lebanon and the remaining occupied Arab territories.

Al-Asad, Mubarak Discuss 'Issues of Concern'

JN1607190494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad today received a phone call from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. They discussed issues of concern to Syria and Egypt.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Consents to 'Peace Meeting' in Tehran

LD1607192094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1830 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has consented to holding a peace meeting in Tehran. According to IRNA, Rabbani's response was released via Iran's embassy in Kabul. The coordination council comprised of Rabbani's opponents and three other parties had agreed earlier with the Islamic Republic of Iran's proposal. Thus, nearly all of the Afghan groups have announced their willingness to take part in the Tehran meeting.

Iran

Commentary on Venezuela's Expulsions of Diplomats

LD1707125094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Venezuelan charge d'affaires in Tehran was summoned to the Iranian Foreign Ministry Saturday, July 16, to receive a strong protest from the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning baseless accusations levelled against some members of the Iranian Embassy in Caracas.

In a meeting with the Venezuelan charge d'affaires, the Iranian Foreign Ministry's director general, while protesting at the uncalculated measure of the Caracas government in reducing the diplomatic cadre of the Iranian embassy in Caracas, denounced the move and called for explanation.

Recently, the Venezuelan Government has asked for a cut in the number of the Iranian embassy staff in Caracas and described the reason for it as the so-called attempt by certain embassy officials to repatriate an Iranian family to the Islamic Republic of Iran contrary to its desire.

A glance at the background of the Islamic Republic of Iran's ties with Venezuela shows that the two countries have enjoyed ties at an acceptable level over the years following the victory of the Islamic revolution within OPEC and also in the Non-Aligned Movement summits and foreign ministers' meetings. The usual fluctuations in the world of politics have, however, not had any major impact in ties between Tehran and Caracas. Based on this situation, recent attempt of the Venezuelan Government and its unfounded and baseless allegations against Islamic Republic of Iran should be construed as stemming from such pressures and circumstances that without having any link with bilateral ties are rooted in a series of plots hatched against the revolutionary Iran by imperialism in recent months.

Over recent months, Islamic Republic of Iran has been the target of extensive propaganda, political, and economic plots hatched by the West under the leadership of America. Such conspiracies have been directed at Iran often by the West and other times from the Persian Gulf region. This time, apparently, South America and Venezuela have been chosen as the venue for launching a political offensive against Islamic Republic of Iran. However, Iran's statesmen should make use of their experience from a host of futile plots engineered by the ringleaders of the domineering system and prefer their lasting interest to the unproductive collaboration with that system. The reason is that consents of the Caracas government with the trend which America contends to have adopted for isolating Iran will eventually prove abortive. [sentence as heard]. Hence, it will only bring disgrace to those involved with the conspiracy.

At present, Venezuela is faced with the worst of its economic crises. Many banks in that country, including Banco Latino, their second largest bank, have become bankrupt. Also Venezuela's foreign exchange reserves have fallen by 17 percent during the current year. Under such conditions, it is a logical expectation that statesmen of that country think of the strategic interest of their countrymen, and instead of disrupting their ties with independent states, endeavor to bolster them.

Radio Blames South Yemenis for Algerian Kidnappings

NC1707071594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] News agencies report that a Yemeni and an Omani diplomat have been kidnapped in Algiers. The Algerian officials who confirmed this report said that Algerian security forces are searching for the two diplomats.

The kidnapping of the Yemeni diplomat follows Yemen's recent two-month civil war, at a time when the Sanaa government is trying to reestablish law and order and to counteract efforts to portray the situation in Yemen as insecure, especially for Yemeni officials. Thus, the Yemeni Government imposed a 12-day curfew in Aden yesterday, the intention being to give security forces an opportunity to arrest those who are upsetting order and security.

Before the imposition of the curfew in Aden, the Yemeni Government had announced that it would be adopting deterrent steps to immediately end illegal acts against public property. In a bid to return to normal, the Yemeni Government had previously recalled the Army to its garrisons and had declared a general amnesty.

Given all this, the kidnapping of the Yemeni diplomat could fall within the framework of efforts to portray the situation as insecure for the Yemeni people and officials.

Also, by emphasizing that the kidnappings of the Yemeni and the Omani diplomats coincided and by pointing out that the Yemeni diplomat was from the south, some people want to attribute this incident to the Yemeni Government. But obviously this is not true.

The separatist forces of the south, who have been defeated in the war with the northerners, have no alternative but to stir up trouble for the Yemeni Government officials in order to show that they still exist. Thus, they are trying to accomplish this by kidnapping a diplomat; choosing a diplomat from south Yemen and an Omani diplomat is merely a ploy to avoid accusations and suspicions and, at the same time, to carry out their intentions.

As for why they chose Algiers as the place to kidnap the Yemeni and Omani diplomats, some experts blame those opposed to the Algerian rulers. These experts believe that a faction within the Algerian Army opposed to Zeroual's government has perpetrated this act in order to put pressure on the government.

Radio on Israeli-Palestinian Clashes in Gaza

NC1807081994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] With the killing of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip by the Zionist regime's forces, unrest has escalated in the region and the Zionist regime and the supporters of the trend of compromise in the region have been assailed by serious apprehension.

The Zionist soldiers opened fire on protesting Muslim Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, killing at least two and wounding over 80. Unrest like yesterday's had not been seen since 'Arafat's arrival in Gaza and it can be considered the bloodiest clash since the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho Autonomy Plan. 'Arafat expressed his concern over the proliferation of anti-Israeli protests in the Gaza Strip and the intensification of clashes and called for increasing international observers in the Gaza-Jericho autonomous region.

The clashes that took place in the Gaza Strip following the restrictions imposed by the Zionist regime on Palestinians living in Gaza indicate that Palestinian protests are growing despite the establishment of an autonomous region. The formulators of the autonomous region believed that its establishment could cater to the demand of the Palestinians for an independent homeland and thus prevent their protests.

The differences and the wide chasm between what the Palestinian Muslims sought in their years of struggle—the liberation of all the occupied territories of Palestine—and what has been given to them in the name of an autonomous region, which is a limited area enmeshed in difficult laws with all the authority placed in the hands of the Zionist regime, cannot efface Palestinian hopes for a return to their homeland.

Most Middle East experts believe that the continuation of the compromising trend may see the Israeli officials and those who consider themselves the representatives of the Palestinian people achieving some agreement. But it will encounter innumerable obstacles in its path. The greatest impediment is the people's opposition, which can neutralize all the agreements for a compromise in one fell swoop. Each clash will bring chagrin and pessimism to the supporters of the trend of compromise with the Zionist regime, who reached agreements with one another in the hope of extinguishing the flames of the Palestinian people's uprising. This will also doubly enhance the doubts and ambiguities regarding the fate of the compromise.

Nepal

Leftist Parties To Unite Against Koirala

BK1507115894 Hong Kong AFP in English 1134 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Kathmandu, July 15 (AFP)—Nepal's leftist parties Friday [15 July] agreed to unite against caretaker Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, and called two general strikes to force the premier's resignation, a political source said.

The six leftist parties formed the movement after a two-hour meeting, during which it was decided to call a nationwide one-day general strike on July 20, to be followed by a three-day strike beginning July 25, the source said.

The parties included the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML), the United Peoples Front (UPF), the Nepal Peasants and Workers Party, the NCP (United), the Nepal Communist League and the NCP-Mashal party.

The country has been pulled deep into political uncertainty following King Birendra's decision Monday to dissolve parliament and call new elections on November 13, with opposition parties staging demonstrations across the country.

The king's decision, taken after consultation with Koirala, has angered all major political parties in the 205-seat parliament. Koirala resigned Sunday after losing a crucial parliamentary debate on his government's annual socio-economic and political programme.

The king also asked Koirala to stay in office until the November elections, which he asked the prime minister to oversee.

Koirala's Nepali Congress (NC) had 112 seats in the dissolved lower house while the main opposition NCP-UML had 68 members.

The six leftist parties said their protests would continue until Koirala was removed and a multi-party interim government was formed to conduct free and fair elections.

Koirala has also been facing heavy opposition within the NC, which has been split into two groups, one supporting Koirala and the other supporting the NC party chief, Ganesh Man Singh.

NC general secretary Mahendra Narayan Niddhi, who is a supporter of Singh, has denounced the king's decision to dissolve parliament and appoint Koirala as caretaker premier.

"It is regrettable that the king has accepted the wrong advice of a prime minister who has already been pushed to a minority," Niddhi said.

"The time has come to launch a political movement jointly with the leftist factions to dismiss the Koirala government and form an all-party interim government in order to conduct free, fair and impartial elections," he said.

The chairman of the suspended upper house of parliament, Beni Bahadur Karki, who is also a member of the NC, said he doubted if the mid-term polls could be held in November.

Speaking on state-run radio, Karki said: "I feel there had been a deep conspiracy behind the dissolution of the parliament and announcement of mid-term polls."

The NCP-UML, the country's largest opposition party, Thursday sent a five-day ultimatum to King Birendra threatening to launch massive protests across the country if Koirala was not dismissed within five days.

They also called for the formation of an all-party government to run the mid term polls.

Koirala has instructed members of his NC party and other political supporters to return to their respective constituencies in order to prepare for an electoral victory in November.

Pakistan

PRC Defense Minister, Delegation Arrive in Islamabad

Mirani Receives Delegation

BK1707144294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] A high-powered military delegation led by the Chinese defense minister, General Chi Haotian, arrived in Islamabad today. The delegation was received by the defense minister, Aftab Shaban Mirani. In an arrival statement, the Chinese minister said China and Pakistan are enjoying long traditional friendship since the establishment of diplomatic relations about 40 years ago. He said the two countries have been involved in friendly cooperation in various fields, achieving satisfying results. Recalling his previous visit to Islamabad in 1989, the Chinese minister expressed the hope that the current tour would be a complete success.

Bhutto Receives Delegation

BK1807024394 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Chinese Defense Minister Chi Haotian has reaffirmed that China will continue to support Pakistan on all regional and international issues. During his talks with Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad yesterday, the Chinese defense minister said China and Pakistan have supported each other during every moment of trial. He said relations between the two cuntries are a perfect example of friendship which will-grow stronger with the passage of time. Referring to the efforts of the late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto to strengthen bilateral ties between Pakistan and China, he lauded the domestic and foreign policies of the present government. During the talks, the two leaders discussed matters pertaining to bilateral cooperstion in various sectors. They also discussed regional an?international issues. The prime minister apprised the Chinese defense minister and the members of his delegation about the continuing freedom struggle in occupied Kashmir and also highlighted Pakistan's viewpoint on preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region. The two sides also exchanged views on the expansion of India's missile program and its impact on the region.

Ali Sees 'Major Improvement' in Russian Ties

BK1707095094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Pakistan will sign a long-term friendship treaty with Russia during Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's upcoming visit to Moscow. This was stated by Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali in an interview with the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Lahore. He referred to the improvement in Pakistan-Russia relations and said that Russia is now pursuing a balanced policy in dealing with Pakistan and India, signifying a major improvement in our relations with Russia. He said that the world in general and Russia in particular appreciate Pakistan's role in securing the release of two Russian prisoners of war by the Afghan mojahedin.

The foreign minister said Pakistan is no longer alone and isolated at the international level, which testifies to the present government's highly successful foreign policy.

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